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ABSTRACT

In the fall of 1991 246,258 Louisiana students enrolled in grades 7-12 were surveyed regarding the prevalence and patterns of drug and alcohol use as compared to 241,858 students surveyed in the fall of 1990. The state-wide reports were comprised of data combining junior high school (grades 7 and 8) and senior high school (grades 9 through 12). Student responses for 1991 indicated that over one-fourth of the junior high and over one-third of the senior high students reported smoking cigarettes within the past year. Annual beer and wine cooler use was reported by more than one-third of the junior high students and three-fifths of the senior high students. Almost one-fourth of the junior high students and half of the senior high students reported using liquor. Approximately 1 in 10 senior high students admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. The percentage was lower for junior high students with less than 1 in 20 reporting annual marijuana use. More than 39% of the junior high students and over 70% of the senior high students reported that beer and wine coolers were fairly easy or very easy to get. The availability of stimulants was similar to that of cocaine with about 10% of the junior high students and 22% of the senior high students reporting easy access to these drugs. (ABL)

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1991 Louisiana State-Wide Survey
Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use

Prepared for
Louisiana State Department of Education

Prepared by
PRIDE, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the fall of 1991, 246,258 Louisiana students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 were surveyed using the PRIDE Questionnaire for Grades 6-12, as compared to 241,858 in 1990. Data obtained from these individual school-based surveys provided information for a state-wide data base as well as information for individual school and parishes. The state-wide reports were comprised of data combining junior high school (grades 7 and 8) and senior high school (grades 9 through 12) samples. Analyses primarily consisted of percentage tables and graphs that contain survey findings. In addition, comparisons were made of the two years' statewide data, as well as, contrasts between state and national survey results. Prevalence of use, intoxicating effects of use, and availability of alcohol and other drugs were targeted for these state and national comparisons.

Student responses for 1991 indicated that over one-fourth of the junior high and over one-third of the senior high students reported smoking cigarettes within the past year. Eighteen percent of the junior high students reported first smoking cigarettes under the age of 12 years.

Annual beer and wine cooler use was reported by more than one-third of the junior high students and three-fifths of the senior high students. Almost one-fourth of the junior high students and half of the senior high students reported using liquor. Although wine coolers are relatively new to the alcoholic beverage market, they received the highest reported use by both grade groups. Even though slightly fewer students indicated they drank liquor, a higher percentage reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they did drink. Over 43 percent of the senior high students reported getting intoxicated when drinking liquor as compared to 18 percent for beer and only 6 percent for wine coolers. The comparison data from 1990 to 1991 for Louisiana indicated a slight increase in usage rates of cigarettes and alcohol with a corresponding increase in the level of intoxication for both junior and senior high school students. The percentage of Louisiana students reporting cigarette and alcohol use was somewhat higher than PRIDE national estimates. However the national data indicated a higher level of intoxication by those using alcohol as compared to Louisiana junior and senior high school students.

Approximately one in ten students in grades 9 through 12 admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. The percentage was lower for junior high students with less than one in twenty students reporting annual marijuana use. Almost two-thirds of the students who indicated that they smoke marijuana get highly intoxicated when they do use. It can be deducted from these data that marijuana use by these young students is not "casual" use, and students apparently smoke to get "high." No increase in marijuana use was reported in 1991 when compared with the 1990 state-wide survey results. Marijuana use by Louisiana students was

considerably less than national survey results.

Other illicit drug use by junior and senior high students was low in comparison to cigarette, alcohol and marijuana use, and illicit drug use by junior high students was relatively low in comparison to senior high students. For senior high students, less than 5 percent reported use of cocaine, depressants, inhalants or hallucinogens. Seven percent of the students reported using stimulants. A relatively small increase occurred in the percentage of Louisiana students who reported illicit drug use from 1990 to 1991. Usage rates were similar when comparing the Louisiana survey results with the national data.

For those students who reported using cocaine and hallucinogens, a high percentage reported getting highly intoxicated. For example, of the senior high students reporting cocaine use, nearly three-fourths reported getting highly intoxicated when they use. For hallucinogen users, nearly 80 percent reported getting highly intoxicated. These data strongly suggest that if a student is found using these illicit drugs, professional help should be obtained immediately. The level of intoxication reached by those using illicit drugs showed a slight increase from 1990 to 1991 for Louisiana students, with the exception of hallucinogens. A slightly higher percentage of Louisiana students reported reaching high levels of intoxication as compared with the PRIDE national estimates.

Location and time of drug and alcohol use was relatively consistent. Students reported school as the place of least use of drugs and alcohol in Louisiana. The most popular places selected for the use of drugs and alcohol were at a "Friend's Home" and in "Other" places in the community where youth congregate. "At Home" was also a preferred place for student drug and alcohol use. For the older students, "In a Car" was also a popular place to drink and smoke marijuana. Weekends were by far the most common time of drug and alcohol use.

It appears that adolescents use drugs and alcohol at times and places when there are social activities with no adult supervision. This pattern of drug use further suggests that drug prevention is a community-wide problem that must be addressed by parents, law enforcement, business and community leaders, churches and others in the community as well as by schools.

Slightly over 55 percent of junior high students and well over 80 percent of the senior high students reported friends who use beer and/or wine coolers. At the junior high level, about 11 percent reported having at least a few marijuana smoking friends. One-third of the senior high students reported friends who smoke marijuana. These data suggest that many students at the junior and senior high level are exposed to drug use through peer association and must make the decision to use or not to use on a regular basis.

The older senior high students tended to report wine cooler use as less harmful and illicit drug use as more harmful than the younger junior high students. Although these differences were small, they have implications for targeting drug prevention and education programs in grades 7 through 12 in Louisiana.

More than 39 percent of the junior high students and over 70 percent of the senior high students reported that beer and wine coolers were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. Twelve percent of the junior high and 30 percent of the senior high students reported that marijuana was readily accessible. A substantial percentage of junior and senior high students reported illicit drugs as easily obtained. For example, one in ten junior and one in five senior high students reported cocaine as "Fairly" to "Very" easy to get. Comparisons of the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana surveys indicated a slight increase in the percent of students who reported alcohol as readily available. The state-wide percentages closely approximate the PRIDE national percentages.

The availability of stimulants was similar to that reported for cocaine, about 10 percent of the junior high and 22 percent of the senior high students reported easy access to these drugs. Hallucinogens were less available to students than cocaine with 8 percent of the junior high and 18 percent of the senior high reporting access to this dangerous type of drug. There was a slight increase in the availability of illicit drugs reported by Louisiana students. Louisiana students had less accessibility to illicit drugs than students in the PRIDE national sample with the exception of cocaine.

It can been seen from the results of this study that parents, teachers, and community members across Louisiana have a stake in preventing their youth from becoming involved with drugs. The acceptance of adolescent drug use in society can be reduced by supporting schools and community efforts in drug abuse prevention. Finally, there is a need to continue to monitor the success of existing programs, to study the patterns and prevalence of drug use, to examine factors that escalate drug use, and to develop effective programs to prevent future drug involvement of the youth.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.A. Purposes of Survey

The 1991 Louisiana survey was conducted using similar procedures as in 1990. In the Fall of 1991, 246,258 students in grades seven through twelve were surveyed regarding their prevalence and patterns of drug and alcohol use. This compares to 241,858 Louisiana students surveyed in the fall of 1990.

Results of these surveys provided evidence that drug and alcohol use among children and adolescents remains an important factor impacting the health and well-being of youth in Louisiana. As school and community teams mobilize to combat adolescent drug and alcohol abuse across the state, a critical part of the prevention/education process is to monitor the extent and nature of the problem at the community or local school level.

Reliable data about the frequency and extent of local adolescent drug use is important to 1) keep school and community leaders informed, 2) plan targeted prevention and intervention programs, and 3) chart the course of drug use over time. These data allow educators and others involved in prevention efforts to confront community denial head-on and provide an informed basis for anti-drug action planning.

Similarly to procedures in 1990, school systems across Louisiana participated in a survey of students in grades 7 through 12. Data from these individual schools and parish-wide surveys were compiled to provide information for use at the local level.

For example, individual school survey results were provided to each school in a tabular report with data presented by grade level for each item on the questionnaire. Parish-wide survey results were provided in a computer generated narrative report which also included a tabular report identical in format to those received by the individual schools. The narrative report provided each parish with the following:

1. tables and graphs and narrative explanations of the findings,
2. sections on the harmful effects of drug use, and
3. sections on how the information from the survey may be used as part of the drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs in the community.

School and parish reports were disseminated to the 67 school systems in Louisiana to be used by educators, parents, and others in the communities they serve. Local survey findings will be reported as deemed appropriate by the individual schools and school systems. While use of survey data is most effective when used at the local school and parish levels, there is a need to view adolescent drug and alcohol use from a state-wide perspective.

As in 1990, the data collected from the parish surveys were combined to form a state-wide data base. This report provides summary findings from analyses of state-wide data and includes among other findings, specific information on drugs of choice, frequency and extent of use, location and time of use, and availability of drugs. A section comparering the frequency of drug use and availability of drugs for 1990 and 1991 is also included.

I.B. Survey Procedures

The school-based surveys conducted state-wide in Louisiana followed procedures established by PRIDE, Inc. for such surveys. Questionnaire forms were packaged according to each school's enrollment and sent to each school system on a specified date by United Parcel Service (UPS). Directions on how to administer the questionnaires were provided for the school survey coordinator and for each classroom teacher who administered the questionnaires. All students present on the day the questionnaires were administered had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire.

During October and November, 1991, the PRIDE Questionnaires were administered by classroom teachers. Appendix A contains a copy of the PRIDE Questionnaire. Student responses to questions on prevalence and patterns of drug use were obtained anonymously. Completed questionnaires were collected from schools and sent to a central location within the parish for delivery to PRIDE. UPS call tags were issued to retrieve the questionnaires to PRIDE offices for machine scoring of forms, analyses of data, and report preparation. Most school and parish reports were completed and disseminated to the parish representatives at a meeting in Baton Rouge on January 23, 1992. State-wide results were presented to the parish drug coordinators at this meeting.

The demographic information in 1991 was consistent with that obtained in 1990. The 1991 sample size of Louisiana students was 246,258 students in grades 7 through 12. Of these, 100,159 respondents were junior high students in grades 7 and 8, and

146,099 were senior high school students in grades 9 through 12. There were slightly more female students (51.7%) than male students (48.3%) responding to the questionnaire. White students comprised 58.5 percent of the sample; 37.8 percent were Black; 1.5 percent were Hispanic; 1.4 percent were Asian; and 0.8 percent were Native Americans.

Father's full-time employment rate was 80.7 percent. Mother's full-time employment rate was 53.9 percent. Over 20 percent of the junior high students and 25 percent of the senior high students reported some type of employment. About 20 percent of the students reported fathers with less than a high school education, and 25 percent with a college degree. Mother's educational levels were 17 percent with less than high school education and 24 percent with a college degree. Appendix B, Tables 1.1 through 1.9, contain more specific demographic information for the 1991 sample.

I.C. The Report

Results of the 1991 Louisiana survey of adolescent drug and alcohol use were determined from analyses of summary data obtained by combining individual parish survey data. Appendix B contains the state-wide survey results for 1991. As can be seen, there is a tremendous amount of percentage data for analyses. To place this information in a more manageable, understandable and useable form, selected data were reported in Chapters II and III. It should be understood that the data in Appendix B were utilized as source data for tables and graphs in Chapters II and III, and the reader may

wish to consult these source tables for more detailed study of the survey findings.

After the Introduction chapter, Chapter I, the report is arranged in four additional chapters. Chapter II: Gateway Drugs contains information on student use of cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana for 1991. The three forms of alcohol included in the survey were beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Chapter III contains information on other illicit drugs. Other illicit drugs were cocaine, uppers (stimulants), downers (depressants), inhalants, and hallucinogens. Chapter IV contains comparisons between 1990 survey findings and 1991 survey findings for frequency of drug use, intoxicating effects of drug use, and availability of drugs.

Chapters II, III, and IV include percentage tables and graphs regarding prevalence and patterns of use of the various drugs included in the survey. Tables and graphs are located at the end of the section in which they are referenced. It should be noted that in some cases drug use was very low among students, particularly illicit drug use in junior high school. In these cases summary statements were made to this effect without elaborating further.

Chapter V: Summary and Recommendations contains a brief summary of survey findings and recommendations formulated from 1990 and 1991 survey findings.

CHAPTER II

GATEWAY DRUGS

The "gateway drugs" are defined in this report as cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. In most states, alcohol and tobacco products are illegal when used by minors, but are legal when used by adults. However, they are generally easy to obtain and are widely used among the adolescent population. The alcoholic beverages surveyed were beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Although marijuana is itself a dangerous illicit drug, it often leads to use of more toxic and addictive drugs. Thus, marijuana is also considered a "gateway drug" because of its role in escalating drug use.

II.A. Use of Gateway Drugs

Prevalence of drug and alcohol use rates are probably the most used and reported findings from any drug survey. The PRIDE Questionnaire obtained student responses to questions on 1) first use of gateway drugs, 2) annual use of gateway drugs, and 3) intoxicating effects resulting from use of gateway drugs. These data provide useful information on the prevalence and patterns of gateway drug use. The reader is referred to these items in Appendix B (Tables 3.1 through 3.5, Tables 4.1 through 4.5, and Tables 5.1 through 5.4 and Tables 11.1 through 11.5) for more detailed analyses of gateway drug use patterns.

II.A.1. First Use of Gateway Drugs

Information on the approximate age that students first use gateway drugs is important since prevention programs usually target students with age specific as well as drug specific information. It is also important from the standpoint that early use of these drugs often leads to problems with dependency later in adolescence or adulthood. Finally, the early use of gateway drugs is an indication of the possibility of later use of the more toxic and addictive illicit drugs such as cocaine and hallucinogens.

II.A.1.a. First Use of Cigarettes

Although tobacco is not usually considered to be a mind-altering or intoxicating drug, cigarettes are highly addicting and are considered one of the "gateway drugs" that can lead to use of illicit drugs such as marijuana. It has been shown that children who develop early addiction to nicotine frequently become lifelong users. In most states it is illegal for minors 17 years of age or younger to purchase or smoke cigarettes, but enforcement of this law is generally lax in most regions. Cigarettes are not included on the PRIDE Questionnaire in questions involving intoxicating effects of use or availability.

Students reported the age of first use of cigarettes as occurring across the entire age span sampled from "Under 10" years to "Over 20" years. The most common ages of first use of cigarettes by senior high school students were reported in the range of ages of 12 to 15 years with 26.4 percent of these students

reporting using cigarettes during this period. For junior high students, 21.3 percent reported first use of cigarettes in the range of 10 to 13 years of age with more than 19 percent reporting smoking cigarettes under the age of 12. Tables II.A.1. and II.A.2. contain percentage data on first use of cigarettes for junior and senior high school students, respectively.

II.A.1.b. First Use of Alcohol

Students in grades 7 through 12 were asked to respond to the questions "When did you first drink beer?," "drink wine coolers?", and "drink liquor?" Tables II.A.1. and II.A.2. contain summary responses to these questions by junior and senior high school students surveyed in Louisiana. For the two grade groups studied there were different patterns of responses to these questions for the three types of alcoholic beverages. Early use of beer, 11 years or younger, was reported by 27.5 percent of the junior high students as compared to 23.2 percent of the senior high school students. These data may suggest that early alcohol use in the form of beer began sooner with the younger students than it did with the older students. However, one must take into consideration the drop-out factor which may explain this difference between the two groups.

A greater percentage of junior high students reported early use of wine coolers than did senior high students. From Tables II.A.1. and II.A.2. it can be seen that 20.8 percent of the younger students (grades 7 and 8) reported drinking wine coolers at 11

years or younger, while 12.9 percent of the older students (grades 9 through 12) reported drinking at this early age. This pattern may be partially explained by availability of the beverage. Wine coolers, a relatively new addition to the alcoholic beverage industry, has been widely advertised and available only in the past four to five years. The older students appeared to have been less affected by the advertising and/or availability of wine coolers as junior high students than the students currently in junior high school. Again, the drop-out factor may account for much of this difference.

Approximately 12 percent of the senior high students reported using liquor at age 11 or below. However, between the ages of 12 and 15 years, 38.4 percent of the senior high students reported first drinking liquor. This was the age span where the largest percentage of students reported first use of beer, wine coolers and liquor. Early liquor use was greater for junior high students with 13.3 percent reporting use before age 12.

II.A.1.c. First Use of Marijuana

Age of first use of marijuana was measured along the same continuum as alcohol. Although the percentage of junior high students reporting use of marijuana was much less than for senior high students, junior high students' beginning use of marijuana was primarily in the age group of 12-13 years (1.9%).

Very early use (11 years and below) of marijuana by senior high students was slightly greater than reported by junior high

students. Unlike alcohol, this very early use of marijuana does not appear greater for junior high students than for senior high students.

Beginning use of marijuana was most frequently reported between the ages of 14 and 15 years for senior high students, with 5.5 percent reporting first use in this age category. However, first use of marijuana was somewhat constant over the age span of 12 to 17 years. The results of drug involvement at an early age can have far-reaching physical, psychosocial and developmental consequences later in these youth's lives. Tables II.A.1. and II.A.2. contain the percentage data for age of first use of marijuana for junior and senior high school students.

II.A.2. Frequency of Gateway Drug Use

Students were asked to respond to how often they used gateway drugs within the past year using an eight category response set ranging from "No Use" to "Daily Use" (see Appendix A). In this narrative report, categories were collapsed into three use categories as follows (see Tables 11.1 through 11.5 in Appendix B):

Infrequent	=	One to Six Times a Year
Frequent	=	One or Two Times a Month
Very Frequent	=	One to Three Times a Week or Daily

Tables containing frequency of gateway drug use appear at the end of this sub-section.

II.A.2.a. Frequency of Cigarette Use

In general, the frequency of cigarette use increased with age

of the student. By the time students were in senior high school 36.1 percent reported smoking cigarettes as compared to 26.5 percent of the junior high school students (see Table II.A.3.).

II.A.2.b. Frequency of Alcohol Use

Use of alcohol by underage students is an illegal and dangerous practice and must be considered an abuse of this otherwise legal drug. Youth drinking has been identified as one of the most serious drug abuse problems among the youth surveyed in Louisiana. An important index of alcohol use is the frequency and extent that junior and senior high school students are involved with alcohol. It is important to examine the percent of students who reported using alcohol and the frequency of that use in order to better plan and implement strategies to reduce alcohol abuse.

Tables II.A.3. and II.A.4. contain the percentage data for student reported use of beer, wine coolers and liquor. Not surprisingly, when junior high students' use of alcohol was compared with senior high students, the rate (percent) of use by the older senior high students was greater. Figure II.A.1. graphically represents the relationship between alcohol use for junior and senior high school students.

It is also important to note that when the categories of use were compared, the senior high students reported using alcohol more frequently. For example, of the junior high students who reported beer use, 23.9 percent responded to "Very Frequent" use. The responses for the same category for senior high beer drinkers

increased to 35.1 percent.

The use rate for liquor was also much higher among high school students with more than twice as many senior high students (52.5%) reporting annual use of liquor as junior high students (25.7%). Since liquor contains a greater percent of alcohol by volume than beer or wine coolers, it may be considered a more potent alcoholic beverage. Students indicating that they drink liquor may be at greater risk of becoming problem drinkers, and they have moved another rung up the drug use ladder.

Implications of these findings are significant. Historically, beer has been by far the most used form of alcohol by adolescents. Indications are that wine coolers have now equaled and even surpassed beer in popularity, even though this type of alcoholic beverage has been on the market only a short time. Findings also suggest that use of alcohol by youth in Louisiana constitutes more than casual use as demonstrated by the majority of drinking students reporting "Frequent" or "Very Frequent" use of beer and liquor. Alcohol use by adolescents should be cause for concern by parents, educators, and others in communities throughout Louisiana.

II.A.2.c. Frequency of Marijuana Use

The relationship between grade level and marijuana use was more pronounced than for alcohol use. Tables II.A.3. and II.A.4. contain percentages that show more than 11 percent of the senior high school students reported at least annual marijuana use as compared to 4.2 percent of the junior high school students. See

Figure II.A. for a visual perspective of this relationship. The correlation between marijuana use and educational level becomes evident -- more students use marijuana as they get older and move into upper grade levels in school. One in every 10 students in senior high school admitted they had smoked marijuana at least once during the past year. To say this in another way, by smoking the illicit drug marijuana, over 30,000 Louisiana students in grades 9 through 12 admitted to committing an illegal act under state law.

II.A.3. Intoxicating Effects of Gateway Drug Use

While survey results have provided evidence of wide-spread use of gateway drugs by junior and senior high school students, a second question of effects of gateway drug use needs to be addressed. Specifically, what levels of intoxication do adolescents attain when they drink alcoholic beverages or smoke marijuana? Do students report more "casual" or non-intoxicating use of gateway drugs, or do they report reaching high levels of intoxication?

II.A.3.a. Intoxicating Effects of Alcohol Use

To determine the extent that students were using alcohol to get highly intoxicated, only those students who reported drinking alcoholic beverages were used to compute the percentage data in this section. Percentages were computed for students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they drank alcoholic beverages. As can be seen from Table II.A.5., senior high students

tended to become more intoxicated when drinking alcohol than did junior high students. For example, senior high students who reported drinking beer were almost twice as likely to get highly intoxicated than junior high students; 18.2 percent for senior high students as compared to 10.1 percent for junior high students. Six percent or less of junior and senior high school students who indicated they drank wine coolers reported reaching high levels of intoxication, the lowest reported percentage for any of the alcoholic beverages.

A greater percentage of students at both levels reported getting highly intoxicated on liquor than with beer or wine coolers. For junior high students who indicated they drank liquor, 27.1 percent reported getting highly intoxicated when they drank. This high intoxication rate was greater for senior high students at 43.6 percent.

II.A.3.b. Intoxicating Effects of Marijuana Use

As discussed earlier, marijuana use was not as prevalent among junior and senior high school students as alcohol use. About 4 percent of the junior high students as compared to slightly more than 11 percent of the senior high students reported smoking marijuana. However, for all students who reported smoking marijuana, approximately 60 percent indicated they generally reached high levels of intoxication (see Table II.A.5.). This high rate of intoxication reported by pot smokers leads one to speculate that the marijuana used by Louisiana students is a potent drug that

contains a high percentage of THC, the psycho-active ingredient in marijuana.

These data suggest that alcohol and marijuana use among adolescents is not "casual," and that large numbers of students who report using these gateway drugs do so to the extreme. These data also suggest that use of alcohol, particularly liquor, by immature adolescents can lead to early dependency as demonstrated by the reported high rate of intoxication among junior and senior high students who drink. Those students reporting use of marijuana had a greater intoxication rate, even higher than the intoxicating rate of liquor, suggesting that smoking marijuana usually produces high intoxication levels in adolescents and may lead to dependency.

Table II.A.1.
First Use of Gateway Drugs by Junior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Cigarettes	8.6	11.0	10.3	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.2
Beer	16.1	11.4	13.1	3.8	0.3	0.1	0.2
Wine Coolers	7.9	12.9	17.8	4.7	0.3	0.1	0.2
Liquor	6.0	7.3	11.2	3.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Marijuana	0.8	0.8	1.9	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1

Table II.A.2.
First Use of Gateway Drugs by Senior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Cigarettes	7.9	9.5	16.5	9.9	2.8	0.3	0.2
Beer	14.3	8.9	18.7	19.0	6.1	0.6	0.3
Wine Coolers	5.1	7.8	21.9	24.6	8.2	0.8	0.2
Liquor	5.7	5.4	16.6	21.8	7.5	0.7	0.2
Marijuana	1.3	1.1	3.7	5.5	2.2	0.2	0.2

Table II.A.3.
Frequency of Gateway Drug Use by Junior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cigarettes	11.9	4.0	10.6	26.5
Beer	20.9	8.7	9.3	38.9
Wine Coolers	22.7	8.9	7.5	39.1
Liquor	13.7	6.0	6.0	25.7
Marijuana	1.8	0.9	1.5	4.2

Table II.A.4.
Frequency of Gateway Drug Use by Senior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

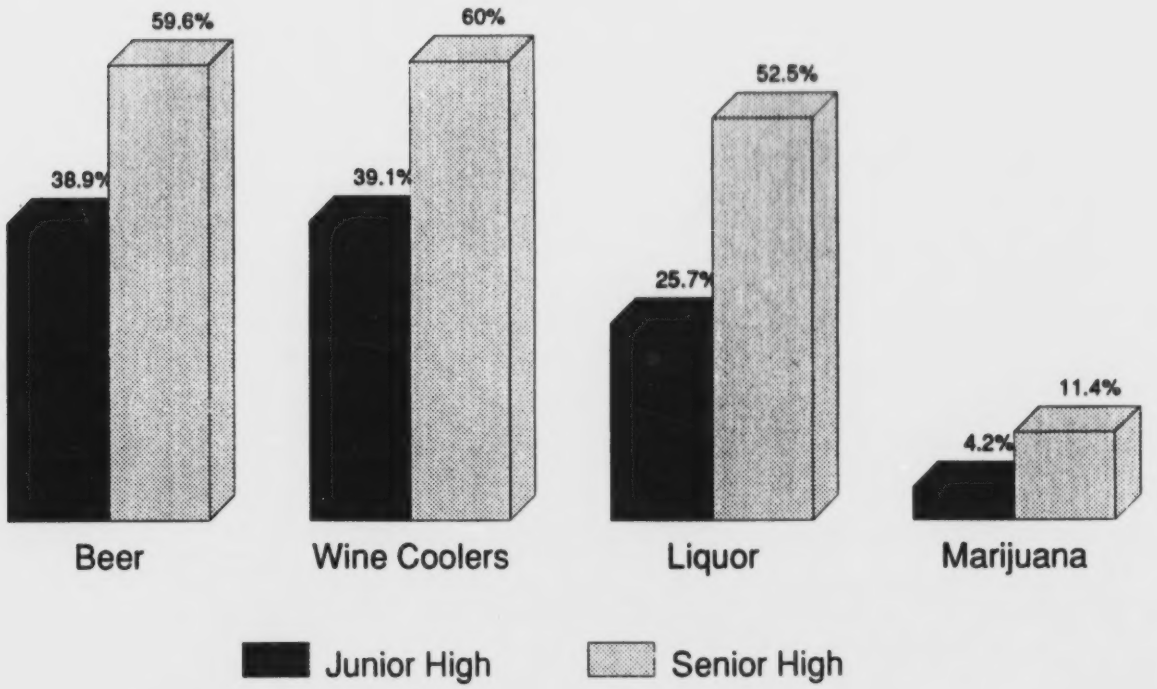
Drugs	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cigarettes	12.6	4.9	18.7	36.1
Beer	22.5	16.2	20.9	59.6
Wine Coolers	28.9	18.3	12.8	60.0
Liquor	21.6	16.0	15.0	52.5
Marijuana	5.4	2.5	3.5	11.4

Table II.A.5.
Percent of Students Reporting High Intoxication Levels
When Drinking Alcohol and /or Smoking Marijuana*
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Junior High	Senior High
Beer	10.1	18.2
Wine Coolers	4.4	6.1
Liquor	27.1	43.6
Marijuana	56.8	59.7

* Percentages computed from students who reported drinking the alcoholic beverage or smoking marijuana and getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned."

Figure II.A.
Gateway Drug Use



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

II.B. Location and Time of Gateway Drug Use

A knowledge of the patterns of adolescent drug use is important when planning and implementing prevention programs. Two of the most important questions that were asked on the PRIDE Questionnaire were location and time of gateway drug use. Students were asked to respond to "where" they use gateway drugs: "At Home," "At School," "In a Car," at a "Friend's Home," and/or at "Other" places in the community. Times of use responses consisted of "Before School," "During School," "After School," "Week Nights," and "Weekends." Students were allowed to respond to all categories of where and when drugs were used that applied to them. This information provides insight into the drug and alcohol use patterns of junior and senior high students surveyed in Louisiana.

II.B.1. Location and Time of Cigarette Use

According to the cumulative responses of where students use cigarettes, the fewest number of students selected "At School" (2.9% for junior high and 6.2% for senior high school students). Smoking was generally reported in "Other" places (14.3%) and at a "Friend's Home" (13.9%) by junior high students.

Senior high students most frequently reported smoking cigarettes in "Other" places (19.2%), at a "Friend's Home" (18.5%), and "In a Car" (17.8%). As seen from Tables II.B.1. and II.B.2. few junior high students reported smoking cigarettes "In a Car" (6.7%), although this was one of the most popular locations selected by the senior high students (17.8%).

The time most frequently selected for both junior and senior high school students to use cigarettes was on "Weekends." Other popular times were "Week Nights" and "After School." "During School" was the category that received the smallest percentage of student responses, a finding consistent with the data reported regarding the location of cigarette use (see Tables II.B.3. and II.B.4.).

II.B.2. Location and Time of Alcohol Use

The senior high school students responses for location of use were somewhat different from the junior high students. Junior high students reported "At Home" as the location most often selected to drink alcohol. For example, the consumption of beer and wine coolers in their home was reported by over 22 percent of the junior high students. These percentages translate into more than one in five junior high school students who indicated they drink beer and/or wine coolers "At Home."

The home was also a popular place for senior high students to drink alcohol with about 24 percent of these older students reporting drinking beer and/or wine coolers at home. However, a "Friend's Home" and "Other" places were given as more popular locations for alcohol use by senior high students (see Table II.B.2.).

Use of alcohol "At School" was reported by relatively few junior or senior high students (under 3%). These data clearly show that alcohol is generally not used at school, but is used at home

and in the community. Figures II.B.1. through II.B.3. present a graphic representation of locations of beer, wine cooler, and liquor use for junior and senior high school students surveyed in Louisiana.

The use of alcohol "In a Car" was reported by a greater percentage of senior high than junior high students. This is an indication of an older more mobile population using alcohol in unsupervised gathering places where teenagers meet to socialize.

Use of alcohol in a car presents a special problem for teenagers. The percentages of senior high school students reporting drinking alcohol "In a Car" are presented in Figures II.B.1 through II.B.3. This graph illustrates the obviously hazardous conditions which exist when these students drive while drinking alcoholic beverages, thus presenting immediate danger to themselves and other motorists. Almost 20 percent (19.5%) of senior high school students reported drinking beer in a car and 16.0 percent reported drinking liquor. These statistics are particularly disturbing since more than 18.2 percent of these students indicated that they got intoxicated when they drank beer, and an even greater percentage reported getting intoxicated when using liquor (43.6%). There is little wonder that automobile accidents is a leading cause of death among this age group.

In addition to location of use, students in grades 7 through 12 were asked to indicate the time of use in order to further establish patterns of alcohol use for students in Louisiana. Students were asked to respond to five categories of when they used

beer, wine coolers, and liquor or they could have selected the "Do Not Use" category. Students were allowed to select multiple responses. As with cigarette use, time categories for alcohol use were "Before School," "During School," "After School," "Week Nights," and "Weekends."

Tables II.B.3. and II.B.4. contain student responses to the time of alcohol use. Overall fewer than 3.0 percent of all student groups reported using alcohol "Before School" or "During School" hours. By far, more students indicated they used alcohol on the "Weekends" than for any other time period. For example, one-half of the senior high students reported drinking beer and/or wine coolers on weekends. Liquor use was only slightly lower at 43.4 percent. Figures II.B.5. through II.B.7. contain a graphic representation of the time of use patterns for senior high school students.

These findings are most significant for planning prevention strategies since most of the consumption of alcohol occurs when parents/guardians are responsible for their children. Further, they demonstrate the need for organized prevention activities that include the community and more specifically the families in the community as an integral part of the prevention process.

II.B.3. Location and Time of Marijuana Use

The place where the least use of marijuana occurred was "At School" for both junior and senior students. Use rates were reported at 1.0 percent for junior high students and 1.7 percent

for senior high students (see Tables II.B.1. and II.B.2.). The reported marijuana use for junior high students was small, less than 2.5 percent for all locations.

Senior high students reported "Other" places in the community (6.2%), at a "Friend's Home" (5.2%), and "In a Car" (4.3%) as the most popular places to smoke marijuana. The bar graph in Figure II.B.8. represents students' responses to location of marijuana use.

The least preferred time of use was "During School" hours. The most popular time of marijuana use was on "Weekends," with 3.0 percent of junior high students and 7.9 percent of senior high students selecting this category. Figure II.B.9. contains students' responses for time of use. The time of marijuana use reported by junior and senior high students can also be examined in Tables II.B.3. and II.B.4.

Again, the data clearly indicate that the times of most reported marijuana were when parents or guardians had responsibility for the supervision of their children. These data strongly confirm the need for parents or guardians to be actively involved in the community's drug and alcohol prevention strategies.

Table II.B.1.
Location of Gateway Drug Use by Junior High School Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friends Home	Other
Cigarettes	13.7	2.9	6.7	13.9	14.3
Beer	22.0	1.4	6.2	14.5	15.9
Wine Coolers	23.1	1.2	5.6	13.3	14.4
Liquor	11.8	1.3	4.4	10.8	11.5
Marijuana	1.6	1.0	1.5	2.2	2.5

Table II.B.2.
Location of Gateway Drug Use by Senior High School Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friends Home	Other
Cigarettes	17.2	6.2	17.8	18.5	19.2
Beer	22.5	2.4	19.5	28.3	32.4
Wine Coolers	24.8	2.0	16.7	25.1	29.2
Liquor	16.5	2.5	16.0	24.7	29.1
Marijuana	2.7	1.7	4.3	5.2	6.2

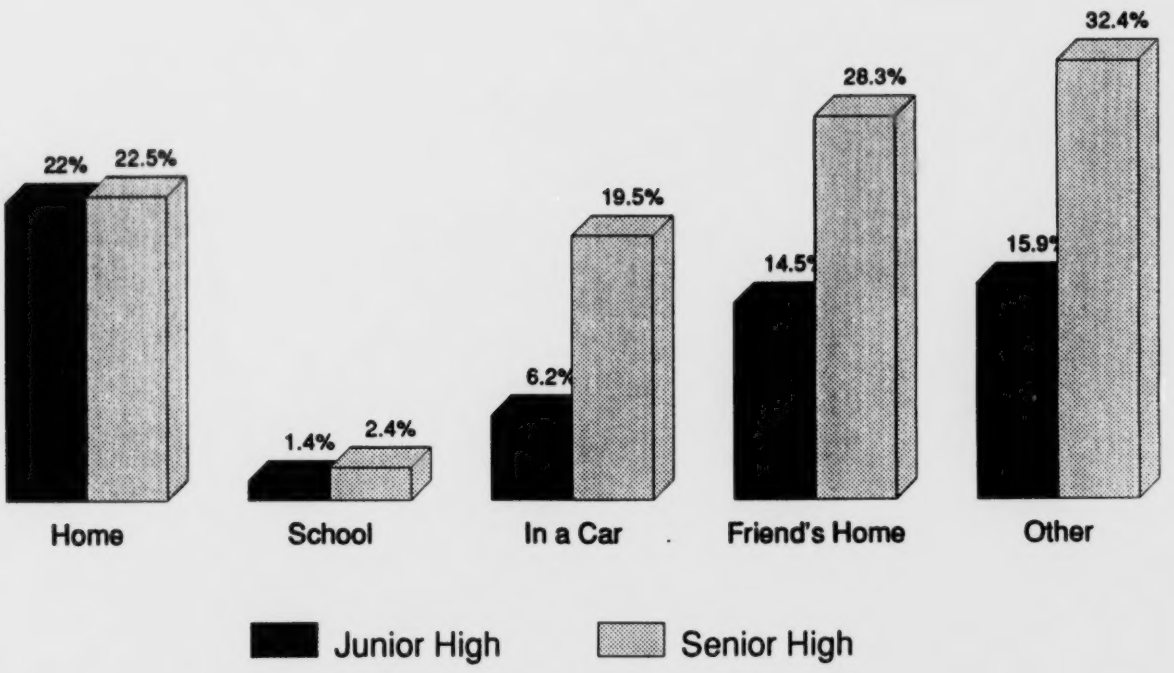
Table II.B.3.
Time of Gateway Drug Use by Junior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Week-ends
Cigarettes	4.8	2.4	9.9	9.1	20.2
Beer	1.8	1.1	5.3	8.4	30.2
Wine Coolers	1.6	1.0	4.8	7.8	30.6
Liquor	1.4	1.0	3.4	5.3	20.0
Marijuana	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.3	3.0

Table II.B.4.
Time of Gateway Drug Use by Senior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

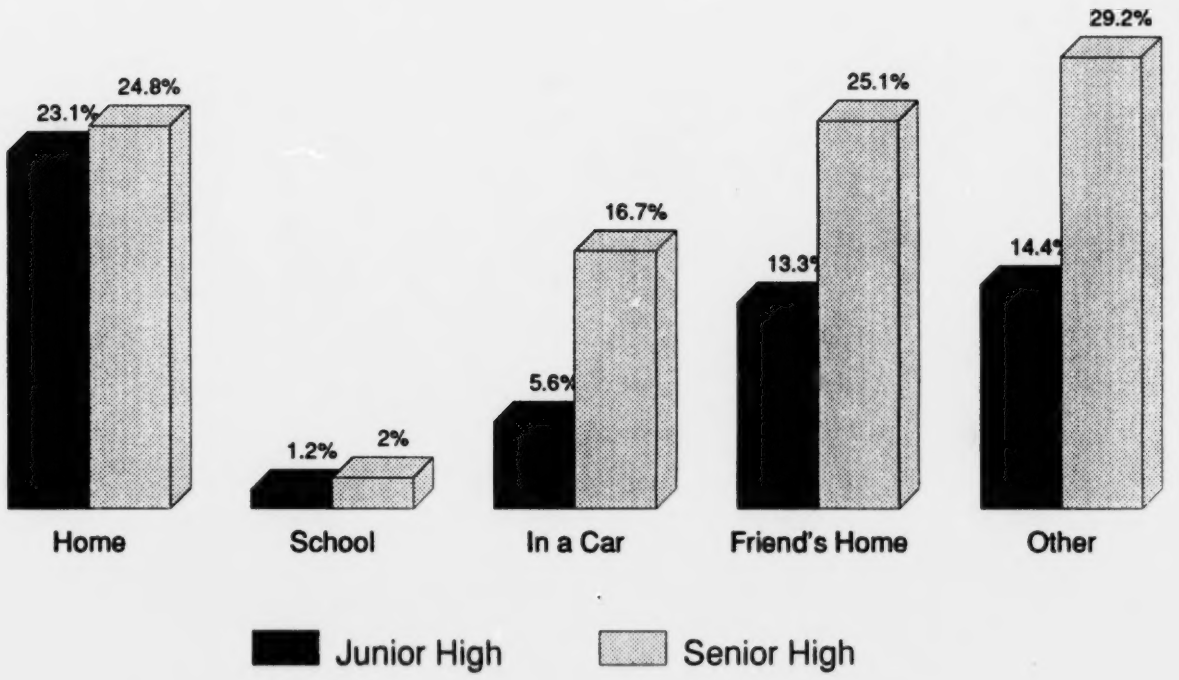
Drugs	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Week-ends
Cigarettes	10.6	5.3	15.5	14.5	26.6
Beer	2.4	1.7	7.0	11.8	49.6
Wine Coolers	1.7	1.5	5.6	9.7	50.0
Liquor	2.1	1.8	5.1	8.2	43.4
Marijuana	1.7	1.4	2.5	3.0	7.9

Figure II.B.1
Location of Beer Use



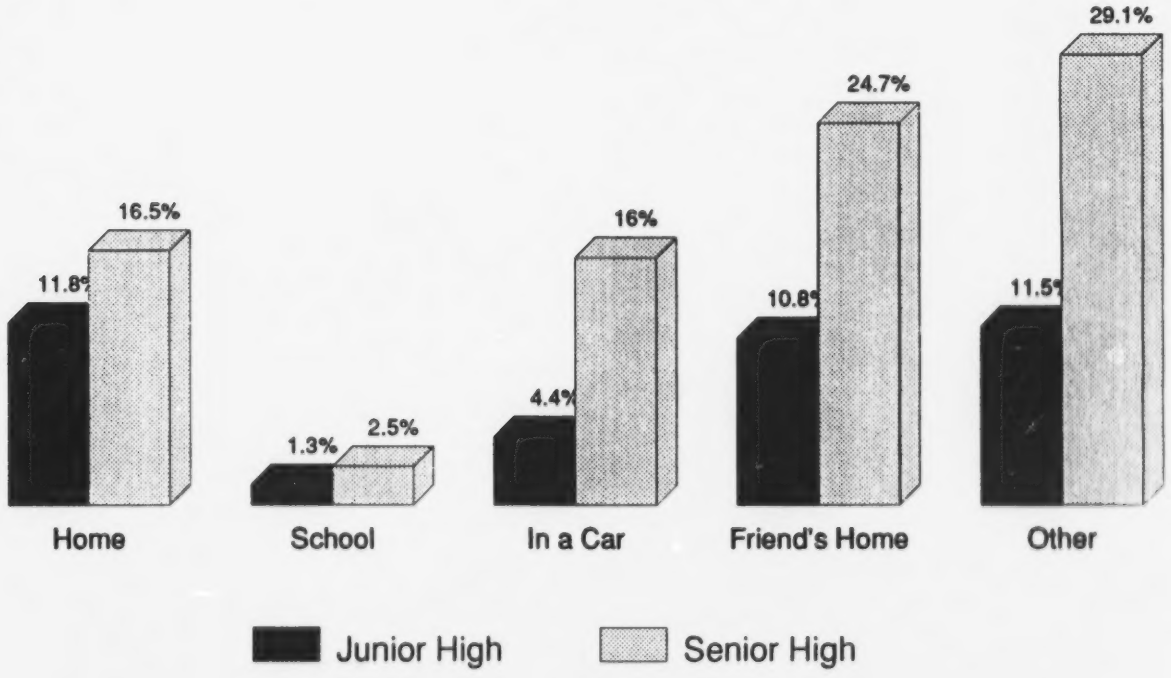
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.2
Location of Wine Cooler Use



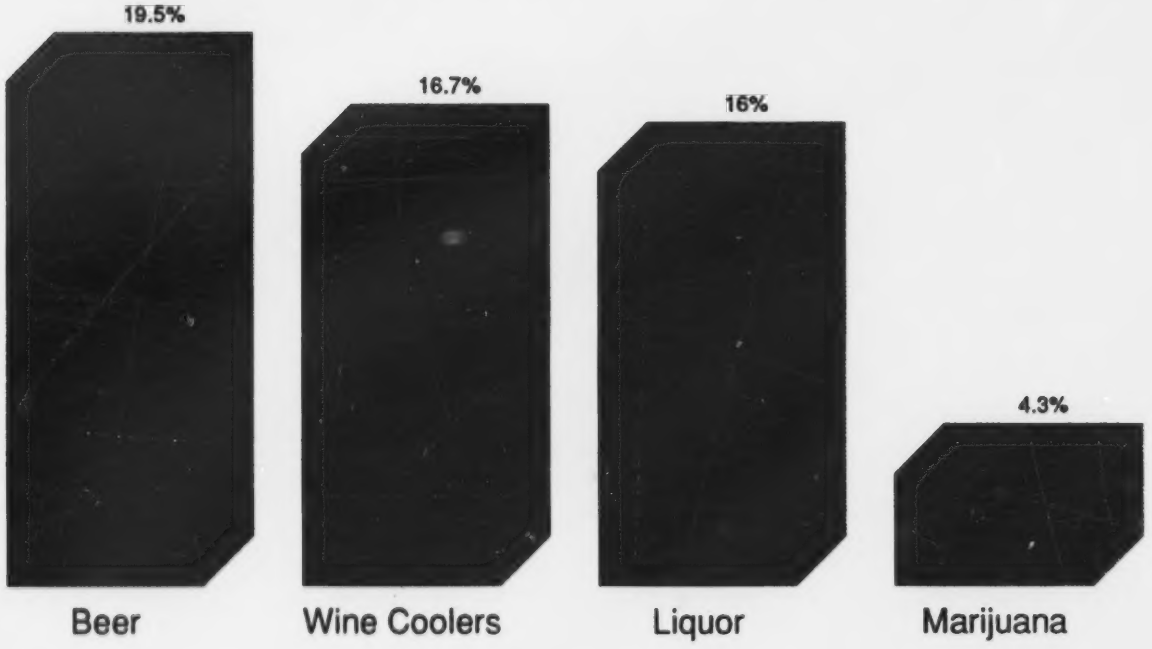
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.3
Location of Liquor Use



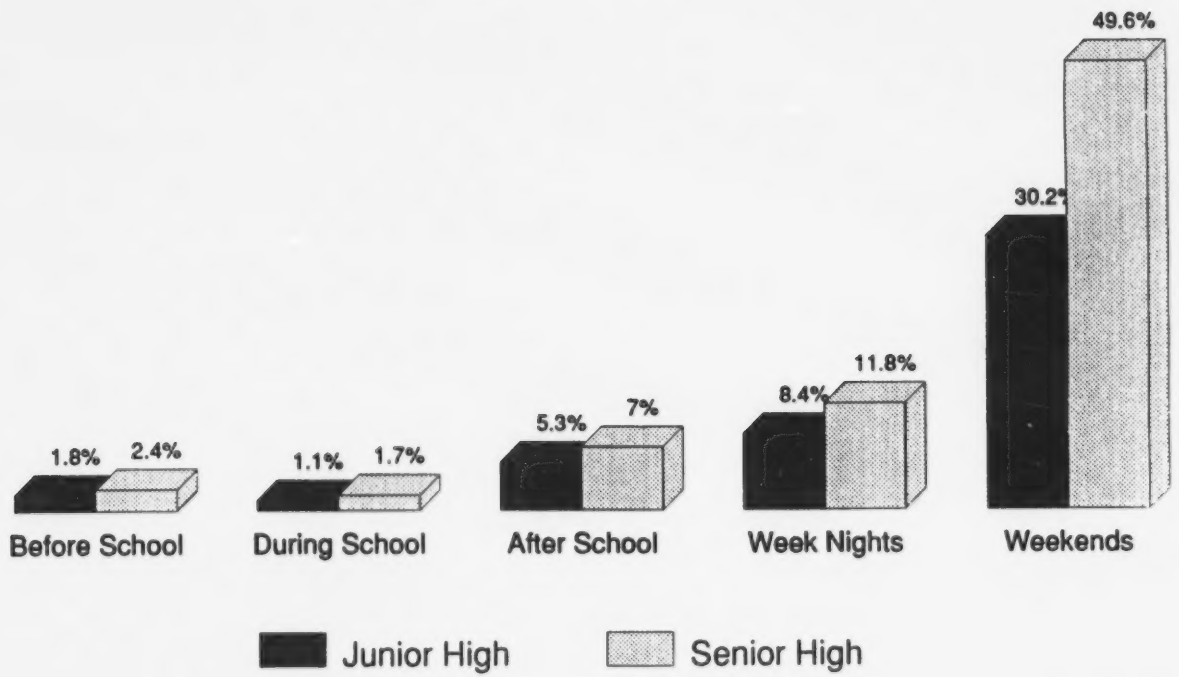
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.4
Senior High Drug Use In a Car



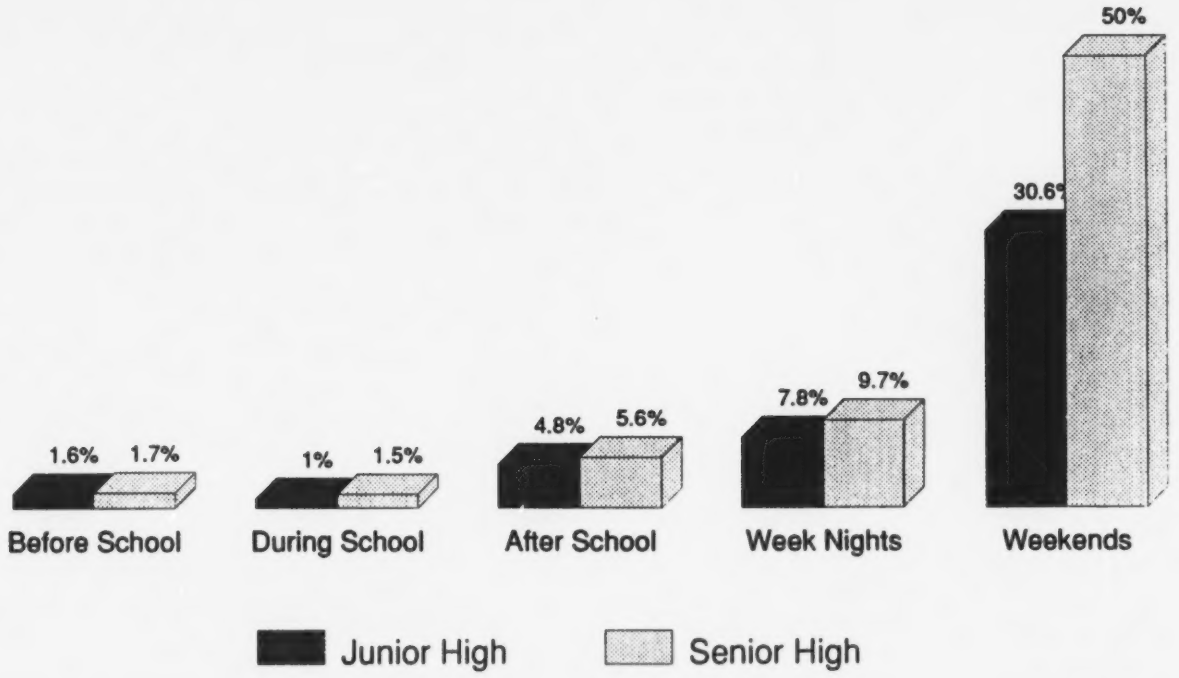
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 145,000

Figure II.B.5
Time of Beer Use



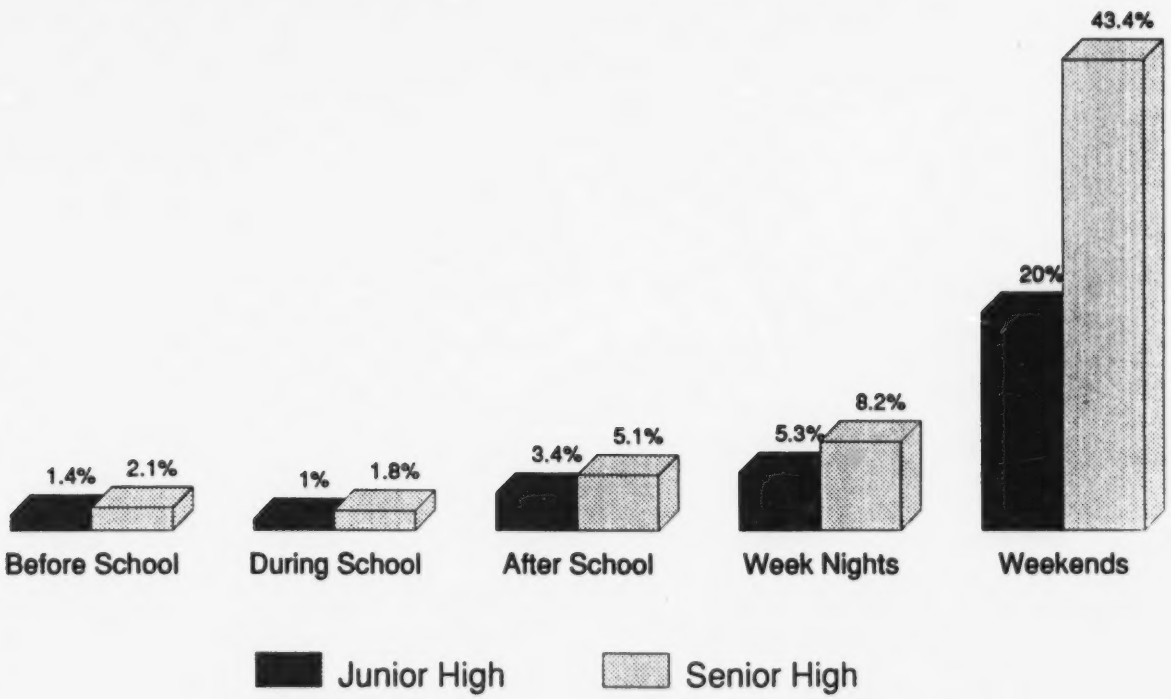
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.6
Time of Wine Cooler Use



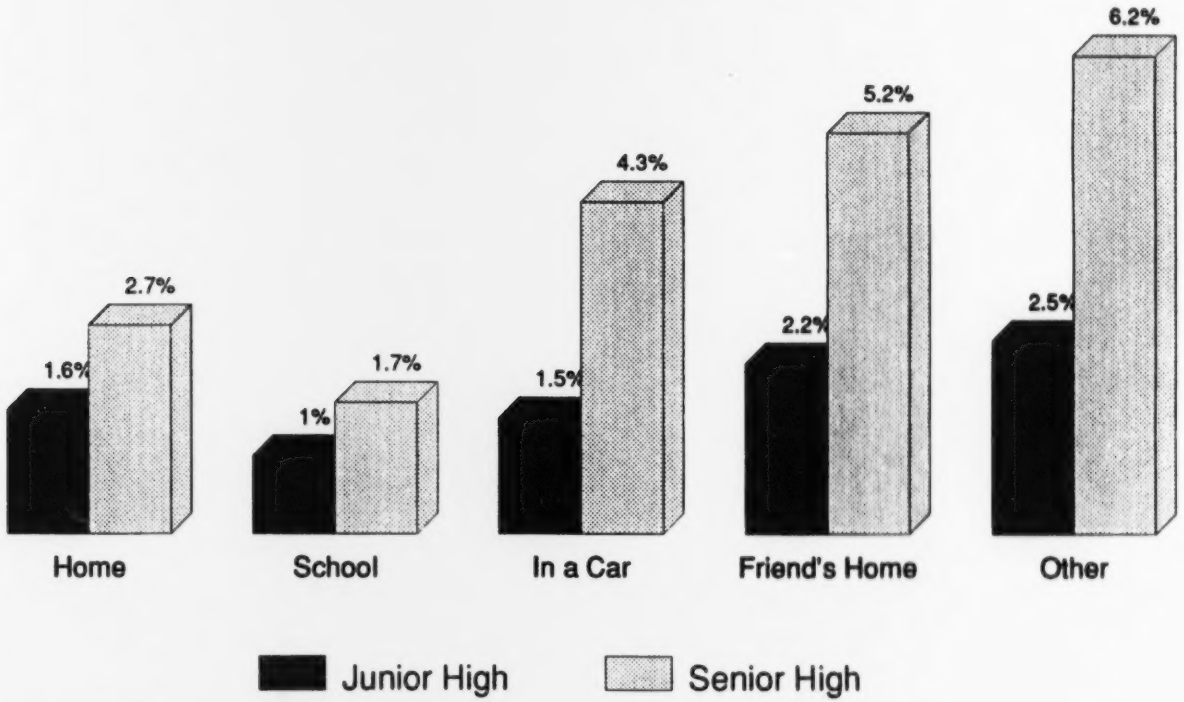
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.7
Time of Liquor Use



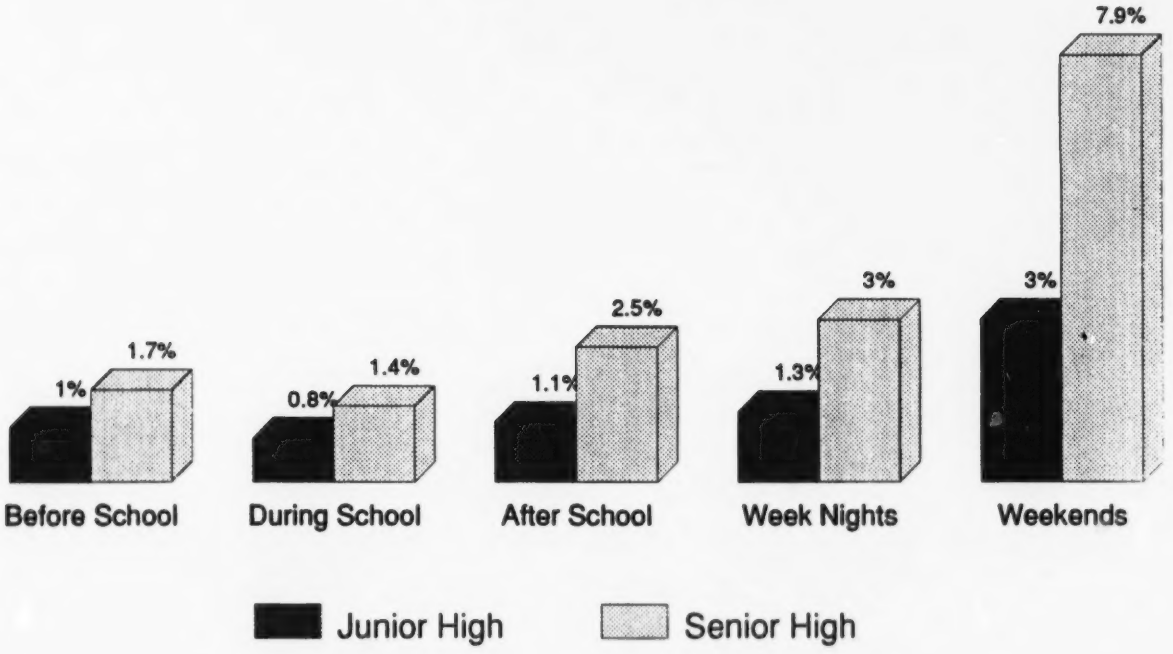
Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.8
Location of Marijuana Use



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure II.B.9
Time of Marijuana Use



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

II.C. Friends' Use of Gateway Drugs

Students were asked to respond to their friends' use of gateway drugs. The categories were "None," "A Few," "Several," or "A Lot." Collection of these data provided a measure of peer pressure to use drugs, i.e., if students have friends who use gateway drugs, they most likely will have the opportunity to use and possibly feel pressure to use themselves. In addition, this measure gives another, less direct, measure of overall use among the adolescent population in Louisiana.

II.C.1. Friends' Use of Cigarettes

A greater percentage of senior high school students (72.2%) indicated they had friends who use cigarettes than the junior high school students (53.2%). These data can be seen in Tables II.C.1. and II.C.2. This finding is consistent with the general tendency for a greater number of students reporting the use of gateway drugs as they get older.

II.C.2. Friends' Use of Alcohol

Peer pressure is a powerful influencing force in the adolescent culture and has been identified as one factor contributing to students' beginning use of alcohol. Students who have friends who drink are more inclined to drink themselves, if not already doing so. They are also at a higher risk of becoming illicit drug users. Junior and senior high school students were asked to indicate how many of their friends drink beer, wine

coolers, and liquor.

From Tables II.C.1. and II.C.2., it can be seen that a much greater percentage of senior high students reported alcohol using friends than did the junior high students. Nearly 85 percent of the students in grades 9 through 12 indicated that they have friends who drink beer. Approximately 52 percent of these students reported that "Several" to "Most" of their friends used beer and/or wine coolers and 50.1 percent indicated that "Several" to "Most" of their friends consumed liquor. Even at the junior high level over 57 percent of the students indicated that they had friends that engaged in drinking beer and 56 percent reported friends indulging in the use of wine coolers. Given that peer pressure is such a powerful contributing factor to students' beginning use of alcohol, these data indicate that there are many students who are under peer pressure to start or continue to drink some form of alcohol.

II.C.3. Friends' Use of Marijuana

Students reported a similar pattern of friends' use of marijuana to that found for alcohol consumption. Generally, the older high school students had a much higher proportion of their friends who used marijuana (30.0%) as compared to the younger students (10.9%) in junior high school. This finding is consistent with the increase in the percentage of students who use marijuana as they get older. However, it is important to note that almost 1 in 4 of the surveyed students reported that they have at least "A Few" friends who smoke marijuana, a dangerous and illicit drug.

Thus, it would seem that smoking marijuana continues to be problematic among the adolescent population. Students who have friends who smoke marijuana at least have the opportunity to use this drug, if not peer pressure to use. Education and prevention efforts to give students the skills to refuse the gateway drugs certainly seems justified by these survey results.

Table II.C.1.
Friends' Use of Gateway Drugs by Junior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cigarettes	46.8	34.1	10.0	9.2
Beer	42.2	33.6	12.6	11.6
Wine Coolers	43.9	32.2	11.9	12.0
Liquor	59.1	22.4	8.7	9.8
Marijuana	89.1	7.2	1.6	2.1

Table II.C.2.
Friends' Use of Gateway Drugs by Senior High Students
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cigarettes	27.8	35.8	~~19.3~~ 19.3	~~17.1~~
Beer	15.3	27.3	24.3	33.1
Wine Coolers	17.1	31.4	23.5	27.9
Liquor	25.1	24.9	21.0	29.1
Marijuana	70.0	20.0	5.3	4.7

II.D. Perceived Harmful Effects of Gateway Drug Use

Students' beliefs about the harmful effects of gateway drugs are important predictors of their behavior. These data can target areas where additional education efforts are needed, both by schools and by parents. Students were asked to respond to the degree that they felt gateway drugs were harmful to their health. The response categories were "No," "Sometimes," "Very Much," and "Don't Know." A "No" response indicated that the student had a positive perception toward the use of the drug, while a "Very Much" response indicated that the student perceived use to be a health hazard.

II.D.1. Perceived Harmful Effects of Cigarette Use

The perceived harmful effects of smoking cigarettes were fairly consistent for the various grade levels. In general, senior high students responded more often than junior high students that cigarette smoking was "Very Much" harmful to their health. As can be observed from Tables II.D.1. and II.D.2., 13.2 percent of junior high students compared to 9.4 percent of the senior high school students responded that cigarette smoking was not harmful. About 6 percent of the junior high and 3.9 percent of the senior high school students responded that they did not know if cigarette smoking was harmful to their health.

It appears that even with the extensive publicity about the harmful effects of cigarette smoking, that approximately one-third of the students did not select "Very Much" as a response to the

harmfulness of this gateway drug. More than 19 percent of the junior high students and 13.3 percent of the senior high students selected the response categories that cigarette smoking was not harmful or that they did not know.

II.D.2. Perceived Harmful Effects of Alcohol Use

Students were asked to respond to the health hazards of drinking alcohol. They assessed the harmful effects of beer, wine coolers and liquor. These percentage data are contained in Tables II.D.1. and II.D.2. About one in six junior and senior high students felt that the consumption of beer was not harmful to their health. The greatest percentage of students in both grade groups perceived wine coolers as being less harmful than beer or liquor. More than one in four of the students surveyed felt drinking wine coolers posed no hazard to their health. Although wine coolers generally contain more alcohol per volume than beer, it is still perceived as less harmful.

Liquor was perceived by students as the alcoholic beverage representing the greatest hazard to their health. Again, a slightly higher percentage of younger students responded to the "Don't Know" category. These data indicate that students need to be taught the dangers of alcohol use by minors as early as elementary school, and continue throughout junior and senior high school.

II.D.3. Perceived Harmful Effects of Marijuana

It is encouraging that nearly 80 percent of the students indicated that marijuana was harmful to their health. However, the younger students responded more frequently than older students that marijuana was not harmful or they did not know if it was harmful to their health (see Tables II.D.1. and II.D.2.). As with alcohol, the perceptions about the harmful effects of smoking marijuana provides further evidence for the continued need of drug education and prevention activities targeted toward adolescent use of gateway drugs in Louisiana.

Table II.D.1.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Gateway Drug Use
by Junior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cigarettes	13.2	19.7	60.8	6.2
Beer	17.2	31.6	43.9	7.4
Wine Coolers	26.9	28.7	34.2	10.3
Liquor	14.0	19.2	59.3	7.5
Marijuana	12.9	2.6	77.0	7.6

Tables II.D.2.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Gateway Drug Use
by Senior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cigarettes	9.4	19.4	67.3	3.9
Beer	15.9	39.6	39.7	4.8
Wine Coolers	28.2	35.2	29.9	6.7
Liquor	11.3	27.6	56.6	4.5
Marijuana	9.9	5.8	78.3	5.9

II.E. Availability of Gateway Drugs

The PRIDE Questionnaire asked students to respond to how easy or difficult it is for them to obtain gateway drugs. Students could respond by selecting "Cannot Get," "Fairly Difficult," "Fairly Easy," "Very Easy," and "Don't Know." The percentages of student responses to these items can be found in Appendix B. For this section, the categories of "Fairly Easy" and "Very Easy" were combined to provide the percentage of students that reported gateway drugs as "readily available." The bar chart in Figure II.E.1. represents the percentage of junior and senior high school students responding that gateway drugs are readily available.

The question of availability of cigarettes was not included on the PRIDE Questionnaire form as cigarettes are usually available with little or no control in Louisiana. Indeed, in most communities cigarettes may be purchased by minors from vending machines in many public places without fear of punishment.

II.E.1. Perceived Availability of Alcohol

One of the factors contributing to use of any drug is its availability or accessibility to adolescents. Alcohol was reported as the drug most available to students, and beer and wine coolers were the most available alcoholic beverages. Nearly 40 percent of the junior high and seventy percent of the senior high students reported that these alcoholic beverages were readily available. Over one-fourth of the junior high and more than 60 percent of the senior high students perceived liquor to be readily accessible to

them.

It is important that youth and adults understand that beer and wine coolers with lower percentages of alcohol are equally as capable of causing intoxication as liquor. However, there appears to be a progression of alcohol use that begins with beer or wine coolers and advances to liquor. As has been discussed, drinking liquor produces higher levels of intoxication among a greater percentage of students, probably due to its higher concentration of alcohol (refer to Section II.A.3. for a more detailed discussion). Since alcohol is reported to be readily available to most students in Louisiana, it would appear that local prevention programs should consider a stricter control of alcoholic beverages in their communities. This may be in the home through family education as well as for establishments that sell alcohol.

II.E.2. Perceived Availability of Marijuana

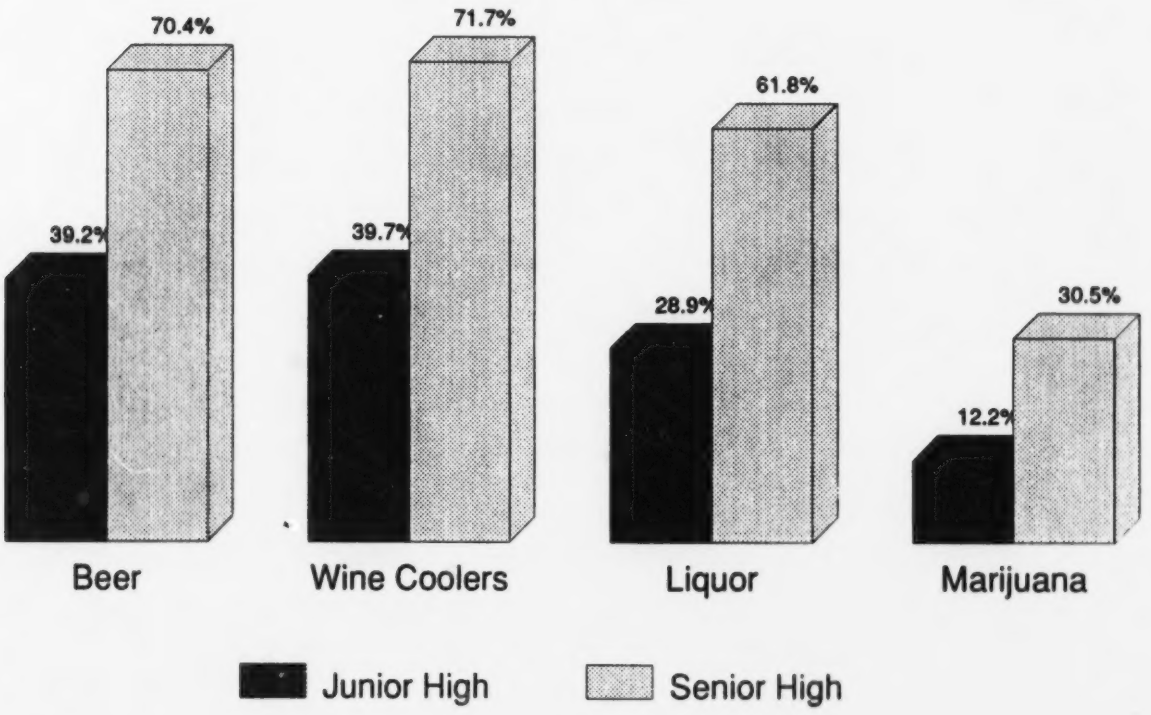
Marijuana was reported as being "Fairly Easy" to "Very Easy" to obtain by 12.2 percent of the junior high students and 30.5 percent of the senior high students, i.e., marijuana appears to be two and a half times more accessible by senior high students than by junior high students. Figure II.E.1. contains percentages for students' responses to the perceived availability of marijuana question.

These data indicate that while the use of alcohol and marijuana by minors is illegal, they are readily available to a large percentage of the adolescent population in Louisiana.

Popular culture condones or even encourages the use of alcohol and, to a lesser extent, other drugs through movies, music, television, advertisements, comic books, t-shirts, etc. Until recently there have been few anti-drug messages to counter the impact of these strong influences.

It is important to discourage the illegal use of alcohol and marijuana through formal education and community prevention programs. However, it is also important to reduce the ease by which students can obtain these drugs, whether from home, a neighbor's home or from other establishments that sell alcoholic beverages to minors or from "pushers" who profit from the vulnerability of youth. Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies must; with the cooperation of students, parents, educators and community; strive to reduce the availability of gateway drugs to minors. Law enforcement should be a part of local, state and national strategies to reduce drug use by youth.

Figure II.E.1
Gateway Drug Availability



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

CHAPTER III

OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

Although marijuana is an illicit drug, in this report it was also classified as a gateway drug and discussed in Chapter II. The "Other Illicit Drug" categories in the PRIDE Questionnaire were cocaine, uppers, downers, inhalants and hallucinogens. These are very toxic drugs and should be considered extremely dangerous and addictive. They often cause dramatic, sudden and unpredictable changes in behavior whereas, gateway drugs may require months or years to cause noticeable physical or psychological damage. These more toxic drugs may cause dependency, permanent damage or even death after only a short period of use or even first time use. Because these drugs are produced and distributed illegally, their purity and chemical content are unknown and are often contaminated with other poisonous chemicals.

Cocaine and other illicit drug use is not as prevalent as that of tobacco, alcohol or marijuana. However, drug abuse and addiction is usually a progressive process that begins with the gateway drugs and advances into the use of more addictive illicit drugs. Although the percentages of students that use illicit drugs are smaller than for the gateway drugs, the gravity of the practice and immediacy of the danger demands attention.

Students who use one or more of these illicit drugs are at extremely high risk of addiction within a very short period of time; a condition that can destroy a child and his or her family. It is suspected that a large percentage of students reporting

illicit drug use are drug dependent and in need of professional help. Hence, it is imperative that students, parents, educators and members of the community at large be knowledgeable of patterns of illicit drug use by adolescents and be alert to the signs of adolescent drug dependency.

This chapter contains information regarding the reported prevalence and patterns of illicit drug use by students in grades 7 through 12. As with Chapter II, tables and graphs describing the survey findings are located at the end of each section. In some sections cocaine, uppers and downers are discussed together and inhalants and hallucinogens are discussed together for efficiency of presentation. Also, reported use of many illicit drugs by junior high school students was very low, and this report will not elaborate on their prevalence and patterns of use.

III.A. Use of Illicit Drugs

Student responsed to questions on 1) first use of illicit drugs, 2) annual use of illicit drugs, and 3) perceived intoxicating effects resulting from use of illicit drugs. As with gateway drugs, these findings are selected from the data contained in Appendix B (Tables 3.6 through 3.10, Tables 4.6 through 4.10, and Tables 5.5 through 5.9).

Junior high school student responses to the questions involving use of illicit drugs were relatively low. For example, 2.1 percent or less of the junior high students reported using cocaine, uppers, downers, or hallucinogens within the past year.

However, the level of reported use of inhalants was more similar among the junior and senior high students (see Tables III.A.3. and III.A.4.). While any involvement in the use of these very dangerous drugs by any student is not to be taken lightly, discussion of illicit drug use by junior high students is limited due to their low response pattern.

III.A.1. First Use of Illicit Drugs

The first use of cocaine, uppers and downers by senior high students reportedly began most frequently between the ages of 12 and 15. Less than 2 percent of the senior high students first reported using cocaine during this period, but 5.4 percent reported use of uppers. Table III.A.2. contains the age of first use of illicit drugs as reported by the senior high school students in Louisiana.

The highest percentage of senior high students reported first use of inhalants (3.4%) between the ages of 12 and 15 years and hallucinogens (2.9%) between 14 and 17 years.

III.A.2. Frequency of Illicit Drug Use

Students were asked to respond to how often they used illicit drugs within the past year. The same categories were used for other illicit drugs as was used for the gateway drugs (see Section II.A.2.). Tables containing frequency of illicit drug use appear at the end of this subsection. The reader is encouraged to study the percentage tables in Appendix B for more complete detailed

results. Although there is much media coverage about the use of cocaine and crack cocaine, fortunately the percentage of students in Louisiana reporting cocaine use is relatively low in comparison to their reported gateway drug use. For example, 3.2 percent of the senior high students reported using cocaine or crack cocaine within the past year as compared to 11.3 percent who reported marijuana use. However, recent research has indicated that a high percentage of cocaine users tried marijuana first and most cocaine users are also current marijuana users. It should be noted that the 3.2 percent of high school students who responded that they use cocaine translates into more than 4,600 students who are involved with one of the most powerfully addictive drugs known.

Use of uppers by senior high students was higher than that of cocaine with 7 percent reporting taking stimulants within the past year. It should be noted that out of all the areas surveyed under illicit drugs, the greatest proportion of students indicated the use of uppers. Use of downers was also slightly higher than the reported use of cocaine for senior high students (4.6%).

The percentage data for junior and senior high students who reported using other illicit drugs within the past year is contained in Figure III.A.1. As can be observed from the bar graph, senior high school student use of illicit drugs was dramatically greater than the reported junior high student use. For more detailed data on the frequency of cocaine, uppers and downers use refer to Tables III.A.3. and III.A.4.

The use of inhalants as indicated by junior high students was

more similar to senior high students than other illicit drugs. Although the use of inhalants by junior high students in Louisiana received the greatest percentage of responses than any other illicit drug category. The senior high students use rate was 4.8 percent as compared to the junior high student rate of 4.2 percent (see Tables III.A.3. and III.A.4.).

Senior high students' use of hallucinogens during the past year was about the same as for downers. Overall use of hallucinogens by senior high students was reported as 4.4 percent, somewhat less than for other illicit drugs except cocaine. While these percentages seem to be relatively small, they represent a number of students who are involved in very dangerous behavior and are at extreme risk. A more graphic picture of student involvement of inhalants and hallucinogens during the past year in Louisiana can be seen in Figure III.A.1. and detailed in Tables III.A.3. and III.A.4.

III.A.3. Intoxicating Effects of Illicit Drug Use

Information regarding the intoxicating effects of illicit drug use is equally as important as frequency of use. Specifically, when students use illicit drugs, to what extent do they become intoxicated? Do students report more "casual" or non-intoxicating effects when they use illicit drugs, or do they report reaching high levels of intoxication?

The term "highly intoxicated" is used for students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned." Table III.A.5.

contains data on the percent of students reporting getting highly intoxicated when they use illicit drugs. It should be kept in mind that these percentages were computed only for students who reported using the drug, and, as can be observed in Tables III.A.3. and III.A.4., represent only a small percentage of the students participating in the Louisiana surveys.

It is important to understand that the intoxicating effects reported by students when using illicit drugs was much greater than for gateway drugs. For example, three-fifths (66.7%) of the junior high and almost three-fourths (73.0%) of the senior high students who reported using cocaine admitted to getting highly intoxicated when they used. These data are indicative of the high addictive nature of cocaine use and suggests that students who use are generally not casual users but use to become highly intoxicated.

About forty-three percent (43.3) of the junior high students and correspondingly, over forty-seven percent (47.9%) of the senior high students indicated getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when using uppers. It is important to note the similar reported percentages by the two grade groups studied. Students involved in the use of downers reported somewhat lower levels of intoxication (41.7% for junior high and 42.9% for senior high students). These data suggest that generally students do not become as intoxicated when they use uppers or downers as when they use cocaine.

One explanation may be that uppers are sometimes used by senior high students to counter the effects of alcohol abuse and are not used to "get high." Another explanation may be that many

students who use uppers have not reached the higher levels of addiction as has the cocaine users, and the cocaine users' need for staying high is greater.

Of the junior high students who reported using inhalants during the past year, 26.7 percent admitted to getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned." A larger percentage of senior high school students (38.2%) admitted to getting highly intoxicated when they used inhalants.

A large majority of students who use hallucinogens reported getting highly intoxicated. Over 78 percent of the senior high students who used hallucinogens became highly intoxicated when they used this type of drug. Thus, hallucinogens and cocaine produce a substantially greater degree of reported intoxication by senior high student in Louisiana than any other illicit drug categories surveyed. The comparative data is contained in Table III.A.5.

The above findings are so important that some of these data will be restated in order to focus attention on this problem. More than two out of ten of the senior high students who reported using uppers and downers indicated reaching high level of intoxication, while nearly three out of four cocaine users and almost four out of five hallucinogen users reached these same levels of high intoxication. Cocaine and hallucinogen use, is not casual, but is practiced to reach extreme mind-altered states. These findings are cause for concern for parents and educators who are responsible for the safety and well-being of these students.

Table III.A.1.
First Use of Illicit Drugs by Junior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Cocaine	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Uppers	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1
Downers	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
Inhalants	1.9	1.2	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Hallucinogens	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1

Table III.A.2.
First Use of Illicit Drugs by Senior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Cocaine	0.6	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.1	0.2
Uppers	0.7	0.5	1.9	3.5	1.4	0.1	0.1
Downers	0.7	0.5	1.3	2.0	0.7	0.1	0.1
Inhalants	1.7	1.0	1.8	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.1
Hallucinogens	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.9	1.0	0.1	0.2

Table III.A.3.
Frequency of Illicit Drug Use by Junior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cocaine	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.4
Uppers	1.0	0.7	1.1	2.8
Downers	0.7	0.4	0.9	2.0
Inhalants	2.0	0.7	1.5	4.2
Hallucinogens	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.8

Table III.A.4.
Frequency of Illicit Drug Use by Senior High Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

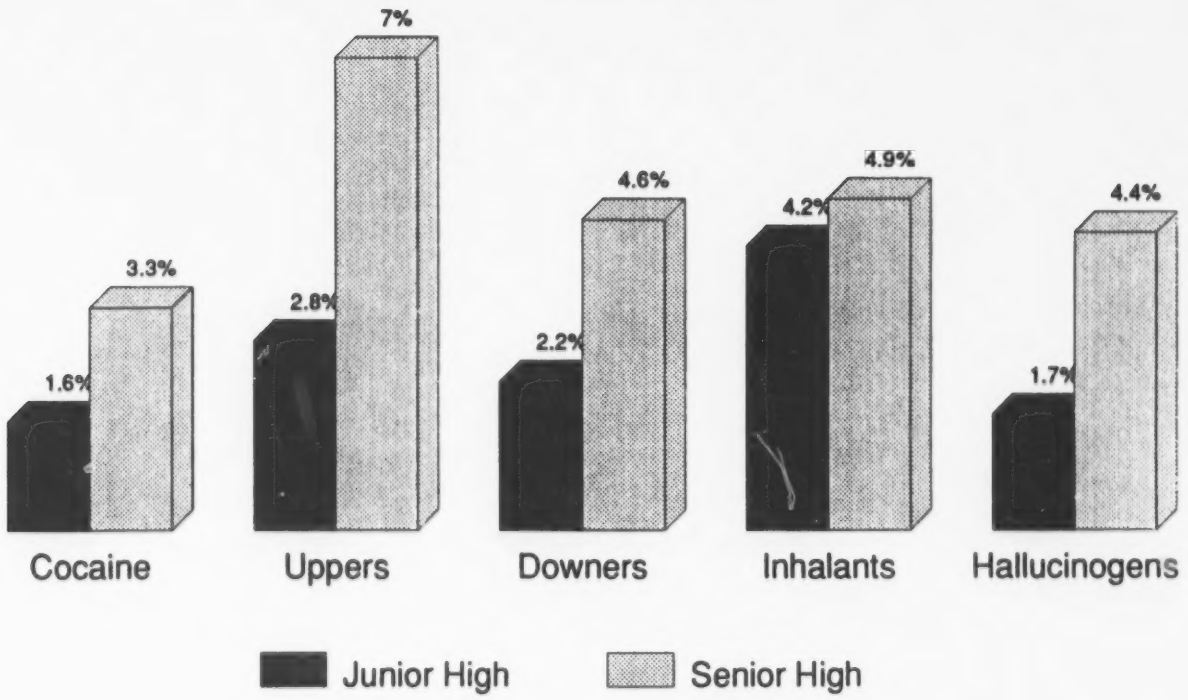
Drugs	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cocaine	1.1	0.6	1.5	3.2
Uppers	2.9	1.7	2.4	7.0
Downers	1.7	1.2	1.7	4.6
Inhalants	2.2	0.9	1.7	4.8
Hallucinogens	1.7	1.0	1.7	4.4

Table III.A.5.
Percent of Students Reporting High Intoxication Levels
When Using Illicit Drugs*
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Junior High	Senior High
Cocaine	66.7	73.0
Uppers	43.3	47.9
Downers	41.7	42.9
Inhalants	26.7	38.2
Hallucinogens	66.7	78.7

* Percentages computed from students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they used the illicit drug.

Figure III.A.1
Illicit Drug Use



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

III.B. Location and Time of Other Illicit Drug Use

Information on the location and time of illicit drug use can be helpful to parents, school officials and others in the community in planning and implementing effective drug abuse prevention programs. Locations and times of use responded to by students were the same as for the gateway drugs. They are as follows:

Location of Use	Time of Use
At Home	Before School
At School	During School
In a Car	After School
Friend's Home	Week Nights
Other Places	Weekends

Students were allowed to mark as many locations and times of use as were applicable to them. A "Do Not Use" category was also included. Junior high responses to location and time of use were very low and will be mentioned only briefly in the narrative.

III.B.1. Location and Time of Cocaine, Uppers and Downers Use

Over 2 percent of the senior high school students reported using cocaine most often at a "Friend's Home" and at "Other" places in the community. Other categories received about a 1 percent response rate. The use of uppers by these students ranged from the most popular location of "Other" places in the community at 3.2 percent to the least chosen location of "In a Car" at 2.0 percent. For downers three categories received the highest percentage of selection: "Other" places in the community (2.0%), "At Home" (2.2%), and at a "Friend's Home" (1.8%). A more in depth study of the percentage data for locations and times of illicit drug use are

contained in Tables III.B.1. through III.B.4.

The preferred time to use cocaine, uppers and downers for the senior high school students was on "Weekends." According to their responses, 4.1 percent of the students reported using uppers on weekends. Cocaine and downers were reported at this time as 2.1 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively. The next popular time selected by students was during school with 2.0 percent of senior high students using uppers at this time. The least selected time of use was "Before School" with "During School" receiving slightly more responses. Although the gathered percentages appear low for location and time the pattern of drug use should be noted and used when planning prevention programs.

III.B.2. Location and Time of Inhalants and Hallucinogens Use

Junior high school students reported using inhalants most often "At Home" (2.4%), and 2.1 percent of the senior high school students reported the use of them "At Home." A "Friend's Home," "Other" places in the community, and "At School" were cited by some students as preferred locations of inhalant use.

About 4 percent (4.4%) of the senior high school students indicated use of hallucinogens. Over 2 percent (2.4%) chose "Other" places in the community as their preferred location. "Friend's Home" was the next most popular location.

Junior and senior high school students' preferred time of use of inhalants and hallucinogens were consistent in their responses to time of use. Both of the grade groups indicated use of

inhalants on weekends and during school as receiving the greatest number of selections to the response of when inhalants were used.

When examining the time of preferred use of hallucinogens, "Weekends" was selected first and "Week Nights" was the next time chosen. This selection pattern was evidenced for both grade groups. Tables III.B.3. and III.B.4. are provided for further study of the pattern of responses given by junior and senior high school students in Louisiana. These data are important for consideration in planning community drug prevention programs.

Table III.B.1.
Location of Illicit Drug Use by Junior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's Home	Other
Cocaine	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1
Uppers	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.5
Downers	1.4	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.2
Inhalants	2.4	2.2	1.0	1.6	1.6
Hallucinogens	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2

Table III.B.2.
Location of Illicit Drug Use by Senior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's Home	Other
Cocaine	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.6
Uppers	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.7	3.2
Downers	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.8	2.0
Inhalants	2.1	2.0	1.1	1.8	1.8
Hallucinogens	1.6	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.4

Table III.B.3.
Time of Illicit Drug Use by Junior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekend
Cocaine	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1
Uppers	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.7
Downers	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.3
Inhalants	0.7	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.8
Hallucinogens	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0

Tables III.B.4.
Time of Illicit Drug Use by Senior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekend
Cocaine	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	2.1
Uppers	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.9	4.1
Downers	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.6
Inhalants	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.4
Hallucinogens	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	3.0

III.C. Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs

Students were asked to respond to their friends' use of illicit drugs. The categories were "None," "A Few," "Several," or "A Lot." These data allowed for a measure of peer pressure to use drugs, i.e., if students have friends who use illicit drugs, they most likely will have the opportunity to use and possibly feel pressure to use themselves. In addition, this measure gives another less direct measure of overall illicit drug use among the adolescent population.

The reported friends' use of illicit drugs by junior high students remained at a lower percentage rate than for senior high students. More than 92 percent of this younger age group indicated that they did not have friends using drugs. The students that responded that they did have friends using drugs indicated the greatest use areas were inhalants (7.5%) and uppers (6.3%).

Approximately twice as many senior high school students reported having friends involved with the use of illicit drugs. Friends' use of uppers was most common with 15 percent of the students. Friends' use of cocaine (12.0%) and downers (11.9%) fell closely behind uppers. Friend's use of inhalants and hallucinogens (11.1% and 11.2% respectively) was also similar to other illicit drugs. These compliation of student responses can be found in Tables III.C.1. and III.C.2. of this report.

Table III.C.1.
Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs by Junior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cocaine	94.2	3.8	0.8	1.2
Uppers	93.7	3.8	1.1	1.4
Downers	94.5	3.4	0.9	1.2
Inhalants	92.5	4.7	1.4	1.5
Hallucinogens	95.5	2.5	0.8	1.2

Table III.C.2.
Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs by Senior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cocaine	88.0	8.6	1.5	1.9
Uppers	85.0	9.9	2.8	2.4
Downers	88.1	7.9	2.0	2.0
Inhalants	88.9	7.3	1.8	2.0
Hallucinogens	88.8	6.6	2.2	2.4

III.D. Perceived Harmful Effects of Illicit Drug Use

Both junior and senior high students responded to questions about the perceived harmful health effects of using illicit drugs. From Tables III.D.1. and III.D.2. it can be deducted that more students perceive cocaine as a greater health hazard than the other listed illicit drugs. About 79 percent of the junior high and 85 percent of the senior high school students recognized the dangers of cocaine use. Hallucinogens were perceived in much the same way as cocaine with more than 76 percent of the junior high and 83 percent of the senior high school students responding hallucinogen use "Somewhat" or "Very Much" harmful to their health.

An interesting analysis of these data was to determine the percentage of students who responded to the categories "No" and "Don't Know." This analysis provides as an estimate of the students who are uninformed about the dangers of drug use. These identified students are the ones who would benefit most from drug education (see Table III.D.3.). When the response categories for "No" and "Don't Know" were combined, a larger percentage of junior high students responded that illicit drugs were not harmful or they did not know if they were. This pattern was consistent and provides dramatic evidence of the need to target younger students for prevention efforts.

These data strongly support the justification for drug education as a prevention measure to be initiated early as part of the students' educational exposure. The goal of this process is to improve the knowledge, skills and attitudes about the dangers of

drug use of the young students in the Louisiana schools. These findings give needed impetus to the importance of drug education beginning in the early childhood years and continuing throughout junior and senior high school. It is important to emphasize that any prevention effort should be broad based enough to include the school and community with a special emphasis being placed on the family.

Table III.D.1.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Illicit Drug Use
by Junior high School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cocaine	12.5	1.1	78.6	7.8
Uppers	12.9	2.8	73.5	10.8
Downers	12.9	2.8	73.3	11.1
Inhalants	13.5	4.6	70.7	11.2
Hallucinogens	12.7	1.7	74.5	11.1

Table III.D.2.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Illicit Drug Use
by Senior High School Students
(1991 Louisiana Survey Results)

Drugs	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cocaine	8.6	1.4	83.8	6.2
Uppers	9.5	4.2	78.3	8.0
Downers	9.3	3.8	78.6	8.2
Inhalants	9.5	4.0	78.0	8.6
Hallucinogens	9.0	2.2	80.9	7.8

Table III.D.3.
Percent of Students Responding "No" and "Don't Know"
to Health Hazard Question
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

Drugs	Junior High	Senior High
Cocaine	20.3	14.8
Uppers	23.7	17.5
Downers	24.0	17.5
Inhalants	24.7	18.1
Hallucinogens	23.8	16.8

III.E. Availability of Other Illicit Drugs

One of the factors contributing to the use of the illicit drugs is their availability or accessibility to adolescents. Students were asked how easy was it to get the various illicit drugs. Response categories were "Can't Get," "Fairly Difficult," "Fairly Easy," "Very Easy" and "Don't Know." A substantial number of students reported ready access to illicit drugs, particularly the senior high students. Percentages of junior and senior high school students' responding "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" are presented as a bar graph in Figure III.E.1.

Nearly one in ten junior high students (9.8%) and one in five senior high students (22.1%) reported cocaine as readily available to them. This translates into approximately 9,400 junior high students and more than 30,000 senior high students in this study alone who indicated easy access to cocaine in Louisiana.

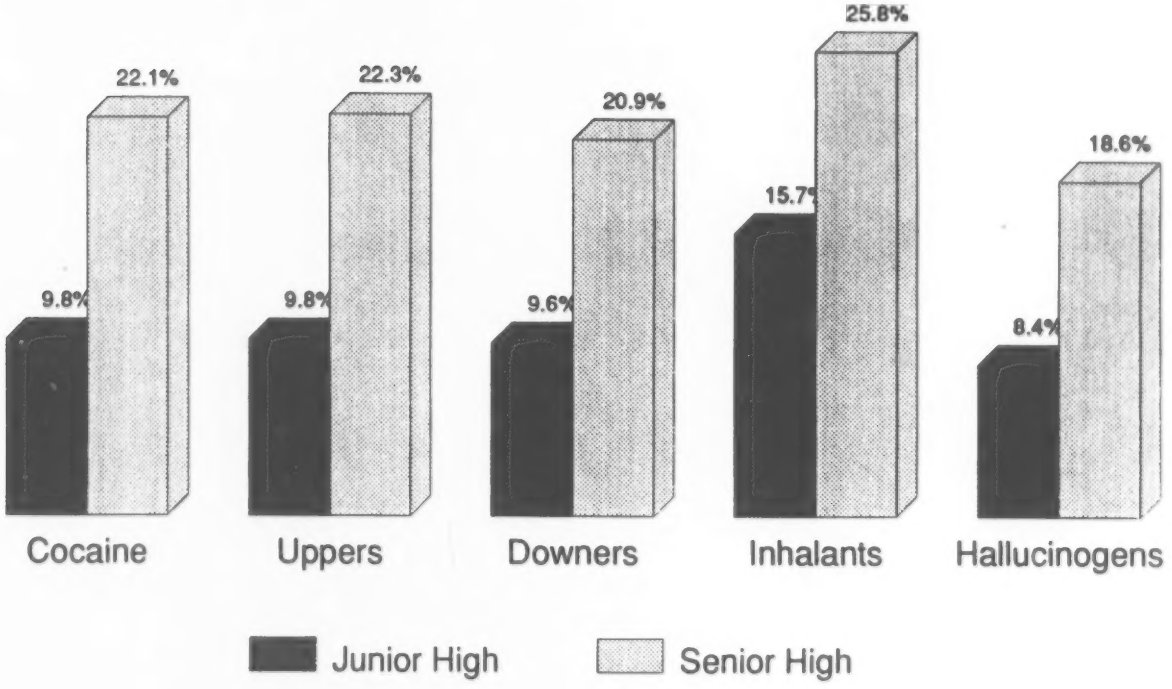
Students responded similarly to other illicit drug categories. Over 9 percent of the junior high students reported that uppers and downers are "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get, compared to over 20 percent of the senior high students. As expected, inhalants were reported as the drug category most readily available. Hallucinogens were reported as the least easily obtained illicit drug with 8.4 percent of the junior high and 18.6 percent of the senior high students indicating that they were readily available to them.

Table III.E.1.
Percent of Students Reporting Illicit
Drugs as Readily Available*
(Louisiana Survey Results 1991)

	Junior High	Senior High
Cocaine	9.8	22.1
Uppers	9.8	22.3
Downers	9.6	20.9
Inhalants	15.7	25.8
Hallucinogens	8.4	18.6

* The term "Readily Available" was defined as those students who reported a drug as "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get.

Figure III.E.1
Illicit Drug Availability



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

CHAPTER IV

COMPARISON OF 1990 AND 1991 SURVEY RESULTS

State-wide surveys were conducted in the fall of 1990 and 1991 utilizing the same procedures. Each parish were provided with PRIDE Questionnaires and procedures for administering the forms. In 1990, 241,858 students were surveyed as compared to 246,258 students in 1991. Individual school and parish-wide results were provided to local school systems both in 1990 and 1991. This chapter will provide state-wide comparisons of the two years' data and contrast these findings with the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary results.

Prevalence of use, intoxicating effects of use and availability of alcohol and other drugs were targeted for comparisons. Tables and figures containing comparison data are found at the end of this chapter. It should be noted that contrasting state to national data does not constitute a measure of acceptability. Rather, it allows the reader to view Louisiana student responses relative to how other students across the country answered the questions. Louisiana student drug and alcohol use patterns should be interpreted as problematic based on state-wide data regardless of whether the data are above, at, or below the national summary findings.

Comparisons will be presented for cigarettes and alcohol as drugs that are legally available for adults, and for illicit drugs that are illegal for use or distribution without a prescription.

IV.A. Comparisons of Prevalence of Use

IV.A.1. Comparison of Cigarette and Alcohol Prevalence of Use

In 1990, 25.8 percent of Louisiana junior high students reported smoking cigarettes within the past year. In 1991, the percentage increased to 26.5 percent (See Figure IV.A.1.). The increase for senior high students was slightly higher at 34.8 percent in 1990 compared to 36.1 percent in 1991 (see Figure IV.A.2). Use of cigarettes by Louisiana students approximated PRIDE national percentage data for 1990-91.

Beer and wine cooler use for junior high increased by 1.0 percentage point from 1990 to 1991. The overall reported use of these alcoholic beverages in 1991 was about 39 percent. For senior high students use of beer increased by less than 1 percent and there was no increase in reported wine cooler use. However, about 60 percent of the senior high students reported drinking beer or wine coolers in 1991. The percentage of Louisiana students reporting beer and wine cooler use was somewhat higher than PRIDE national estimates for both junior and senior high students. See Figures IV.A.1. and IV.A.2. for these comparisons.

Louisiana junior and senior high students reported an increase of 1.6 percent for liquor use. This is a rate of increase of 6.6 percent for junior high and 3.1 percent for senior high. Use of liquor by Louisiana students was slightly higher than was reported in the PRIDE national summary, with about one-fourth of the junior high students and over half of the senior high students in Louisiana reporting drinking liquor within the past year. Figures

IV.A.1. and IV.A.2. contains these comparisons.

IV.A.2. Comparison of Illicit Drug Prevalence of Use

There was no increase in reported marijuana use among Louisiana junior and senior high students from 1990 to 1991. Further, the reported use of marijuana by Louisiana senior high students was considerably less than was reported in the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary report (See Figure IV.A.3.). These data speak well of the education and other prevention efforts targeting marijuana use by Louisiana junior and senior high students..

There was a consistent but very small increase in the percentage of students who reported other illicit drug use from 1990 to 1991. In no instance was there an increase of more than 0.6 percent for junior or senior high students. These data may indicate a leveling of illicit drug use more than an increase in illicit drug use. However, this tendency should be monitored to see if a similar or accelerated rate of increase continues in 1992. Percentages of Louisiana students who reported using illicit drugs in 1991 generally paralleled the PRIDE national percentages. Figures IV.A.4 and IV.A.5 contain the other illicit drug comparisons for 1990 and 1991 Louisiana survey findings and the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary results.

IV.B.1. Comparison of the Intoxicating Effects of Alcohol Use

It is important to consider the intoxicating effects of drug and alcohol use as well as the frequency or prevalence that these

drugs are used. The percentages of students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they used the drug was computed from the data in Tables 5.1 through 5.10 in the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana surveys, and for the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary data. It should be noted that these percentages are for students who reported using the drug. Thus, the intoxicating effects of the various drug categories can be compared for students who used the drug without the confounding effects of non-users.

Figure IV.B.1. contains the comparison of intoxicating effects of senior high students who reported using alcohol. There were little differences in percentages between the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana surveys for intoxicating effects of alcohol. As was reported in Chapter II, a higher percentage of students reported getting highly intoxicated when they used liquor than when they used beer or wine coolers. However, a lesser percentage of Louisiana students reported getting highly intoxicated when drinking alcoholic beverages than was reported by students in the PRIDE national sample. It is unclear as to why this difference exists. It may be that the alcohol use patterns are different from students in other states, i.e., Louisiana students do not abuse these alcoholic beverages to the degree that other students abuse alcohol. The difference could also be explained by an increase in tolerance of these alcoholic beverages.

IV.B.2. Comparison of the Intoxicating Effects of Illicit Drugs

The reported intoxicating effects of marijuana followed a

similar pattern as did alcohol. Little difference was noted between the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana survey results, but a slightly smaller percentage of Louisiana students reported reaching high levels of intoxication. Figure IV.B.2. contains these comparisons for senior high students.

Intoxicating effects other illicit drugs present a mixed pattern. The percentage of Louisiana students reporting getting highly intoxicated on hallucinogens decreased slightly from 1990 to 1991, and were lower than the PRIDE national estimates. Other categories of illicit drugs (cocaine, uppers, downers, and inhalants) were about the same or slightly higher when the 1990 data were compared to 1991 data. Also, a slightly higher percent of Louisiana students reported reaching high levels of intoxication when using the drug. As reported in Chapter III, hallucinogens and cocaine were the drugs that produced the highest percentage of students reporting high intoxication levels. See Figure IV.B.2 for comparisons of these drug categories.

IV.C.1. Comparison of the Availability of Alcohol

Figures IV.C.1. and IV.C.2 compare the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana survey results and the PRIDE national results of students responding to the question of how easy it is to obtain alcoholic beverages. They contain the percent of junior and senior high school students, respectively, who responded "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get beer, wine coolers, and liquor. These responses were interpreted as the drug being "readily available" or easily

"accessible" to students.

Comparisons of the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana surveys suggest there was a slight increase in the percent of students who reported alcoholic beverages as readily available. However, the percentage of students reporting alcoholic beverages as readily available in the 1991 Louisiana survey closely approximated the PRIDE national percentages.

IV.C.2. Comparison of the Availability of Illicit Drugs

There was little or no difference in the availability of illicit drugs reported by junior high students in 1990 as compared to 1991 (see Figure IV.C.3.) For senior high students, there was a tendency for students to report a slightly higher access to illicit drugs (see Figure IV.C.4). Although slight, this tendency should be monitored in 1992 to see if it continues to increase, remain the same or decrease. Student reported availability of these drugs provides educators, parents, law enforcement officials, and others as a measure of the effectiveness of supply reduction activities in Louisiana.

The 1991 results from the Louisiana survey showed that Louisiana senior high students had less access to marijuana than students in the national sample, however, cocaine was slightly more accessible to Louisiana students. The availability of other drug categories were about the same for Louisiana students and students in the PRIDE national sample.

IV.D. Summary

The percentage of students reporting smoking cigarettes within the past year increased slightly from 1990 to 1991, to about the national level of use for 1990-91.

There was little increase in reported beer and wine cooler use by junior and senior high students in Louisiana from 1990 to 1991. An increase of approximately 1.6 percent was noted for liquor use over the one period for both junior and senior high students. The percentage of use of alcoholic beverages was somewhat higher by Louisiana students than was reported in the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary.

There was no increase in reported marijuana use among Louisiana junior and senior high students from 1990 to 1991, and the reported use of marijuana by Louisiana senior high students was considerably less than was reported in the 1990-91 PRIDE national summary report. There was a consistent but very small increase in the percentage of students who reported other illicit drug use from 1990 to 1991, but these data may indicate a leveling of illicit drug use more than an increase in illicit drug use. This tendency should be monitored to see if a similar or accelerated rate of increase continues in 1992. Percentages of Louisiana students who reported using illicit drugs in 1991 generally paralleled the PRIDE national percentages.

About the same percentage of alcohol using students reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they drank in 1991 as in 1990. However, slight increased in intoxication levels were noted

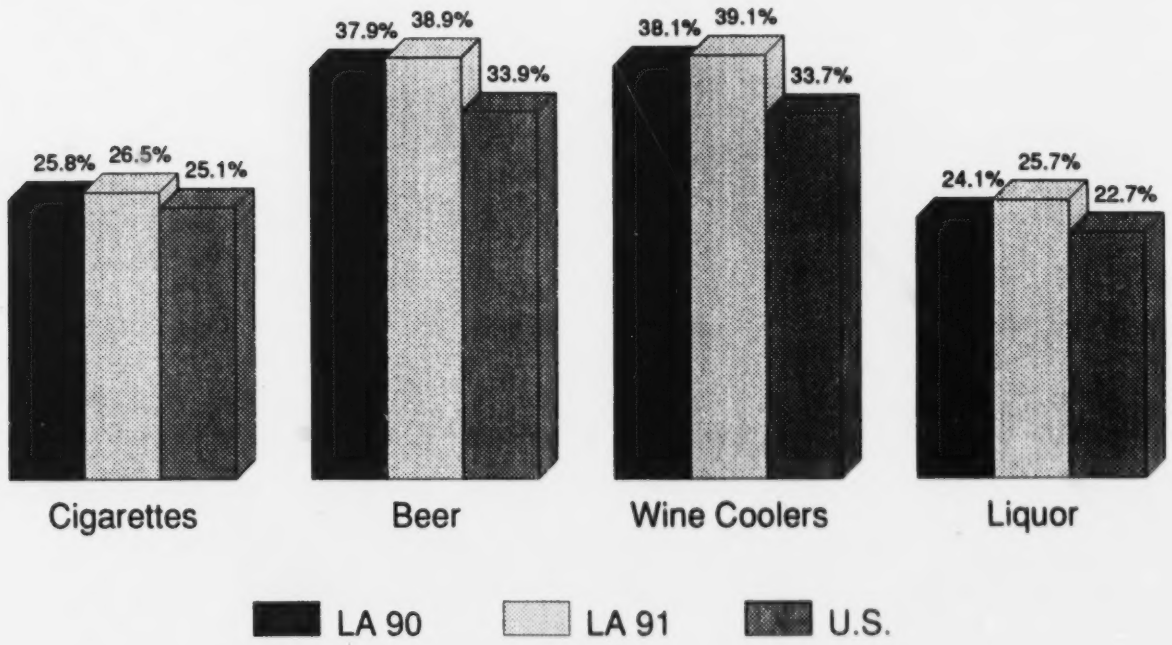
for illicit drug users from 1990 to 1991. The exception was for students who use hallucinogens; a slight decrease was noted for this group.

There was little or no change from 1990 to 1991 in availability of alcohol and other drugs by junior high students, but there was a slight increase in reported access to these drugs by senior high students. Access to drugs and alcoholic beverages was about the same for Louisiana students as was reported in the 1990-91 PRIDE National Summary with the exception of marijuana, which was less easy to obtain by Louisiana students.

Figure IV.A.1.

Cigarette and Alcohol Use

for Jr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

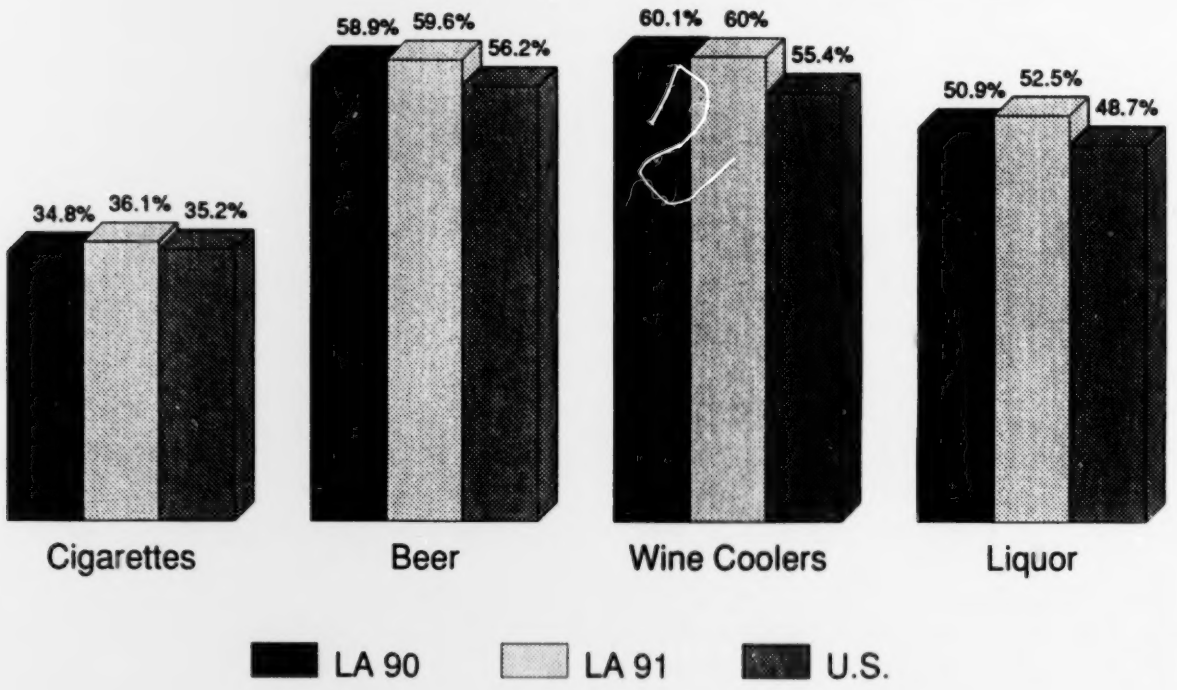


Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.A.2.

Cigarette and Alcohol Use

for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

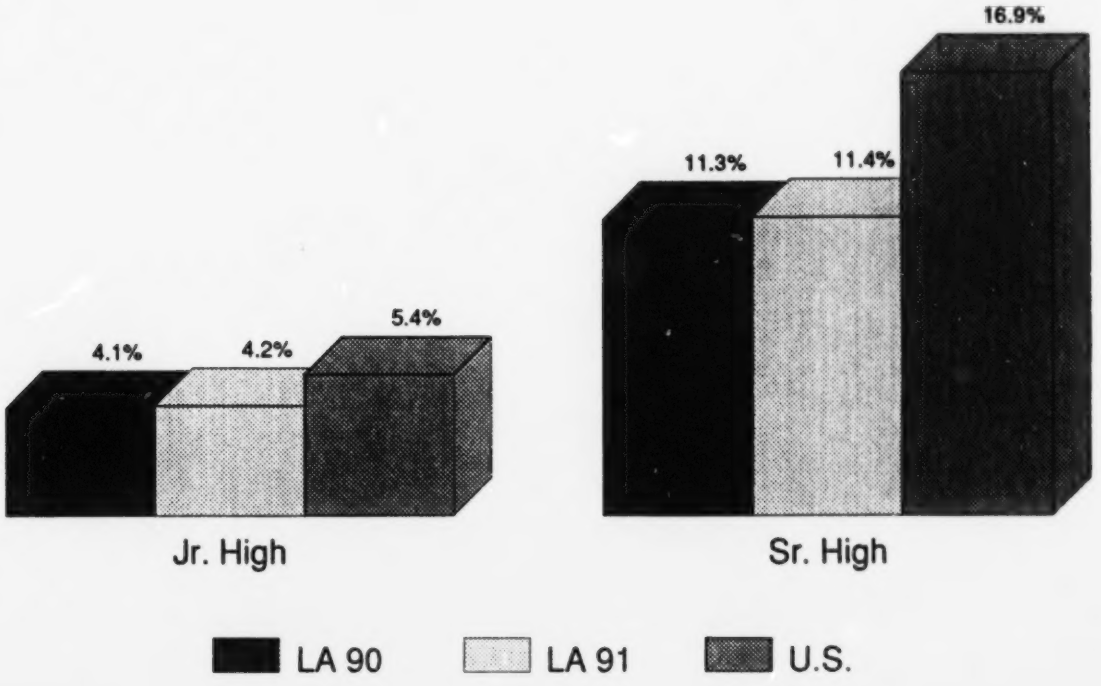


Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.A.3.

Marijuana Use

for Jr. & Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

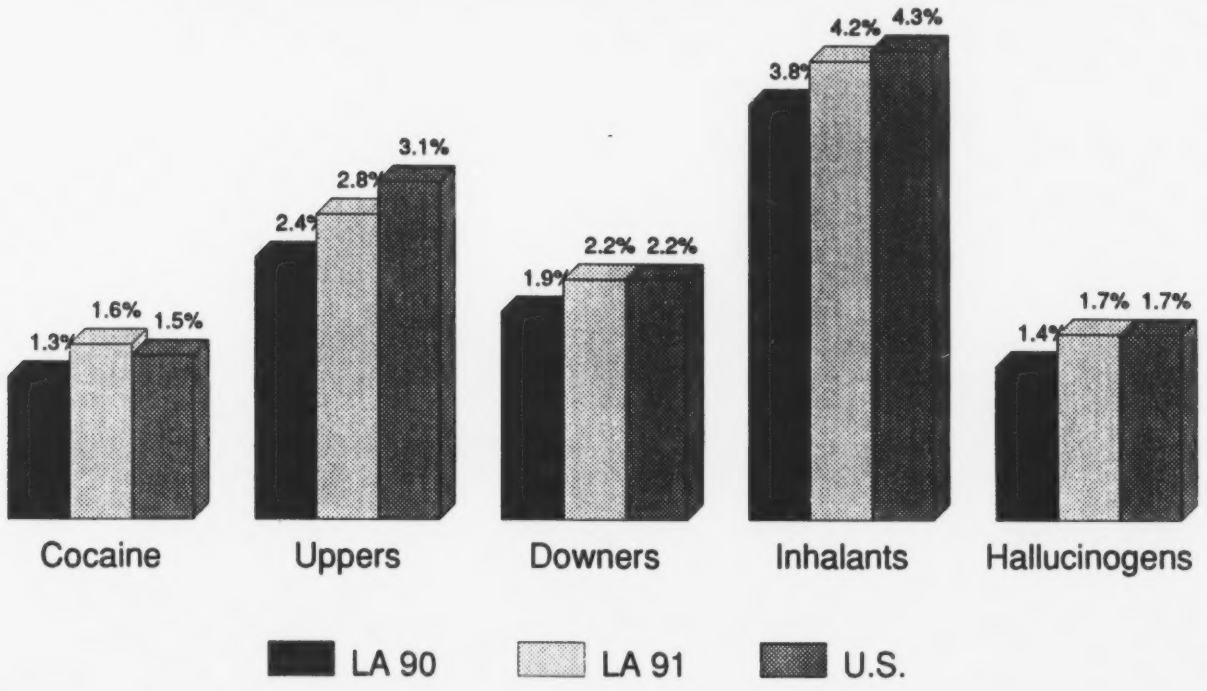


Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.A.4.

Other Illicit Drug Use

for Jr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

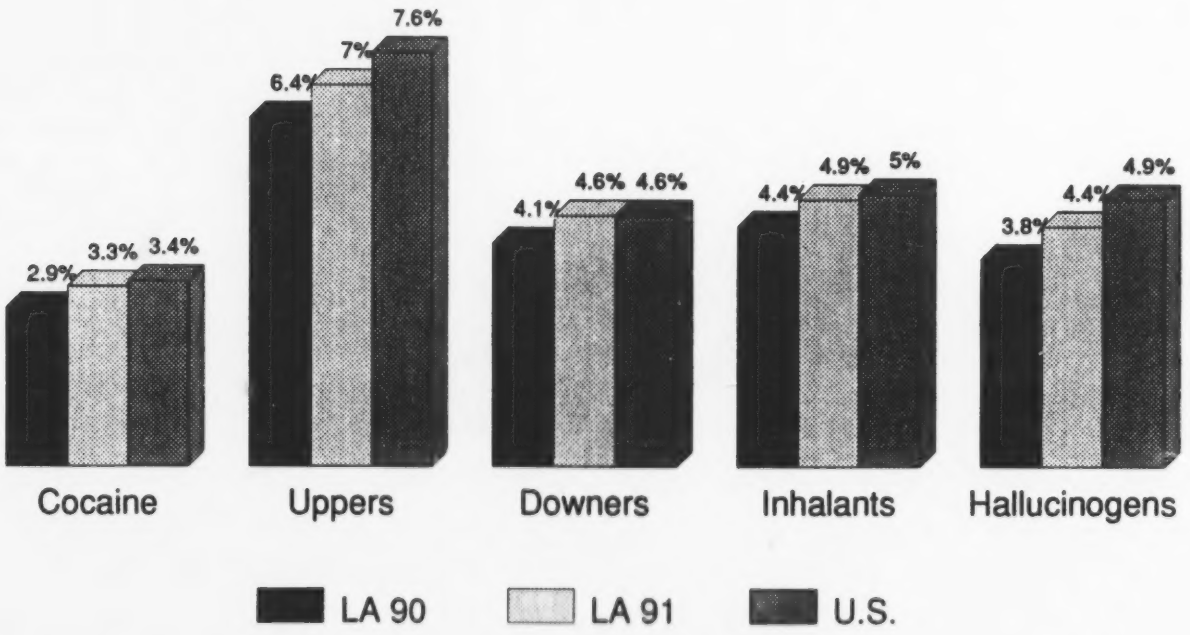


Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.A.5.

Other Illicit Drug Use

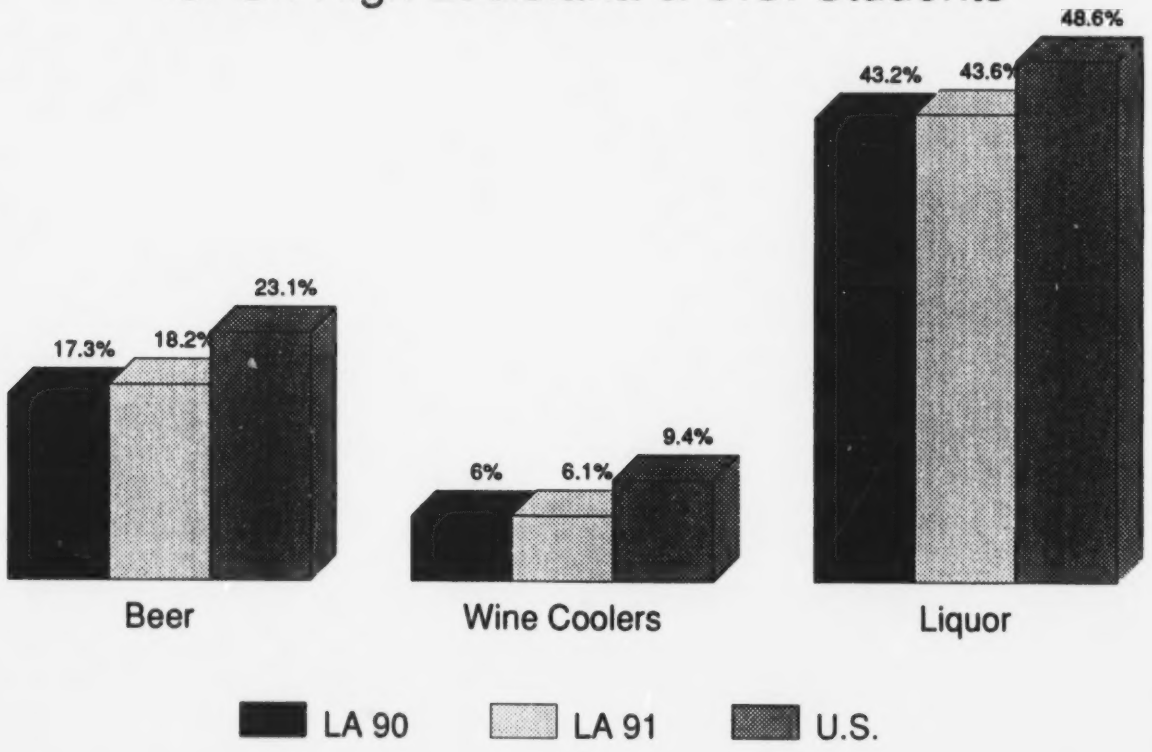
for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.B.1.
Intoxicating Effects of Alcohol Use

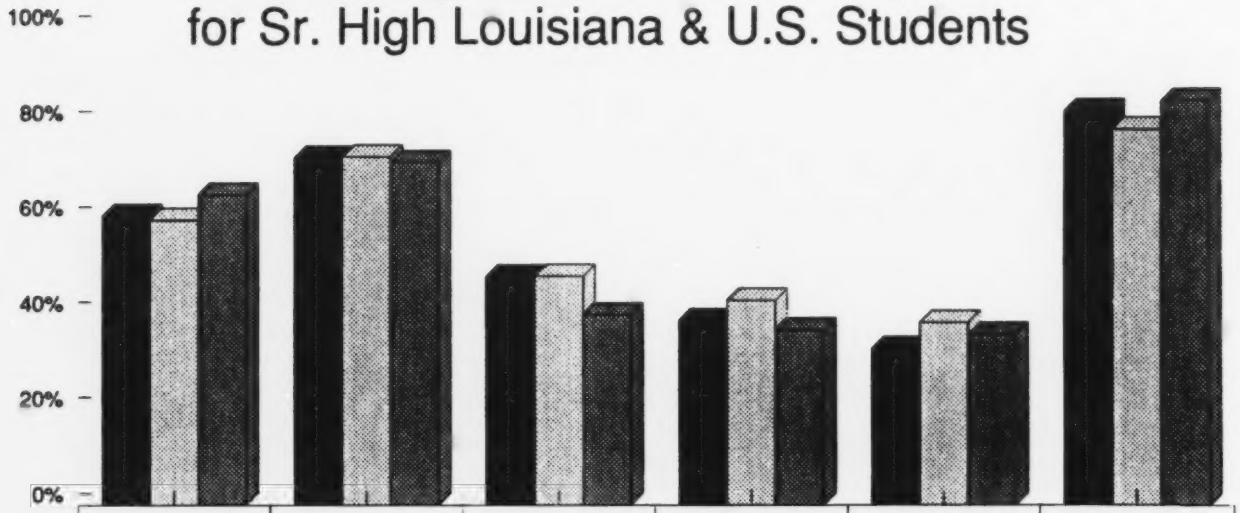
for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.B.2

Intoxicating Effects of Illicit Drug Use for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students



	Marijuana	Cocaine	Uppers	Downers	Inhalants	Hallucinogens
LA 90	60.5%	72.7%	47.8%	38.6%	32.7%	82.5%
LA 91	59.7%	73%	47.9%	42.9%	38.2%	78.7%
U.S.	65%	71.8%	39.8%	36.7%	35.7%	84.6%

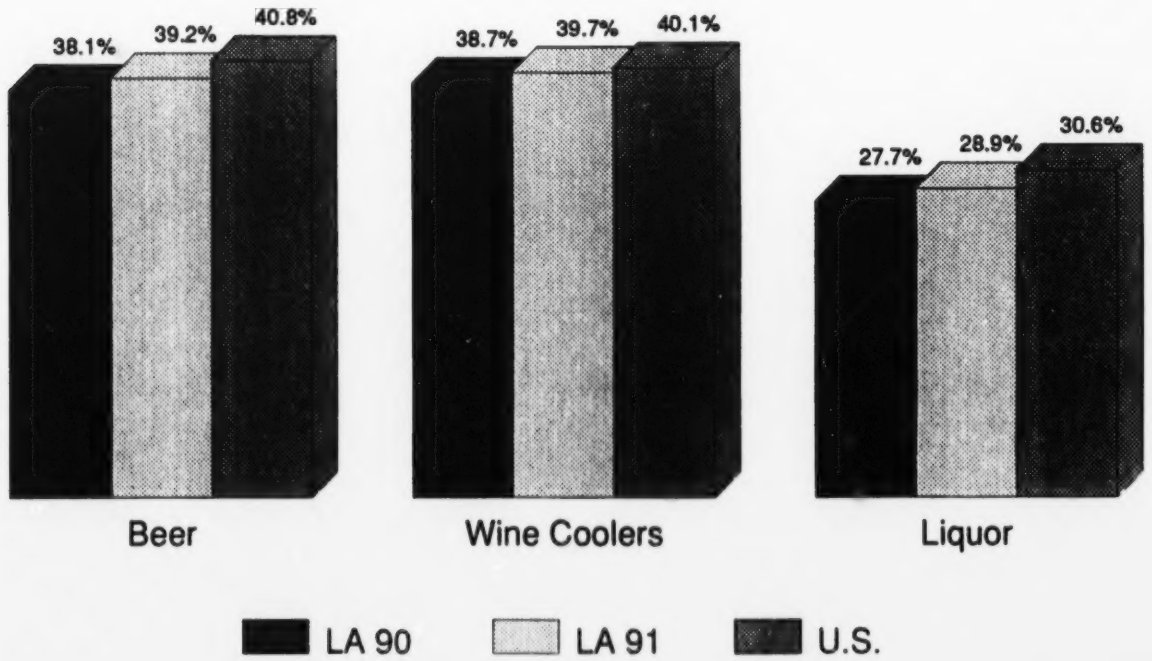
LA 90 LA 91 U.S.

Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.C.1.

Availability of Alcohol

for Jr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

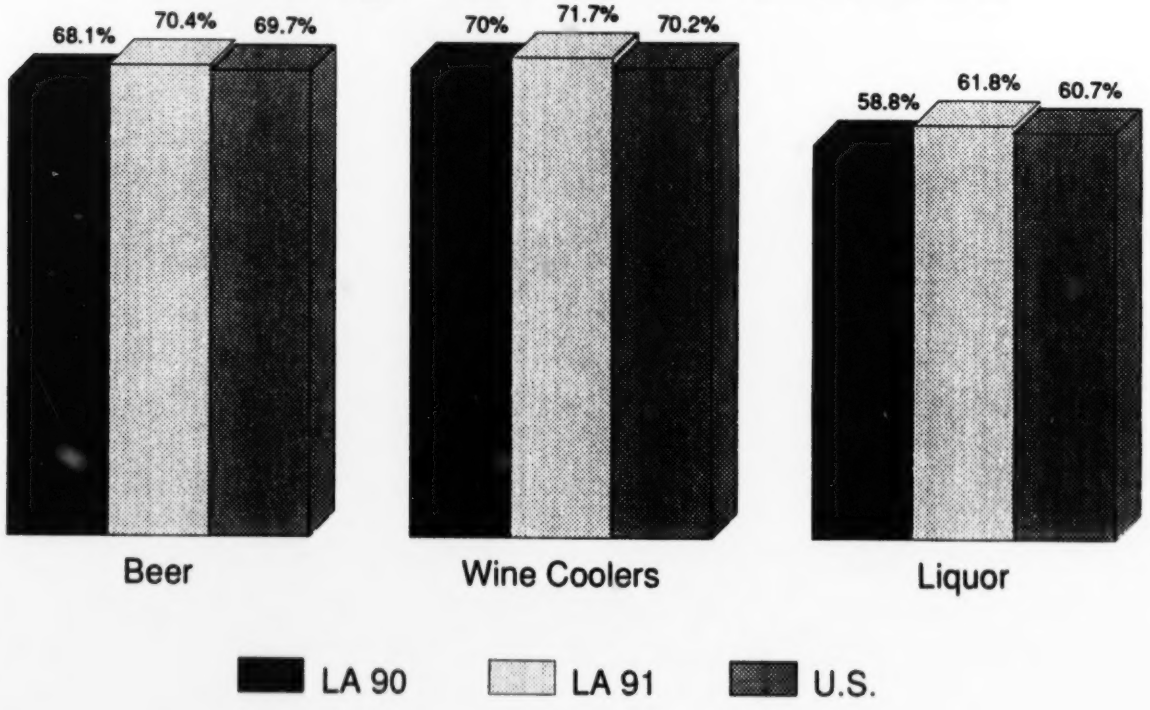


Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.C.2.

Availability of Alcohol

for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students



Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.C.3.
Availability of Illicit Drugs
for Jr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students

	Marijuana	Cocaine	Uppers	Downers	Inhalants	Hallucinogens
LA 90	11.8%	9.2%	9.4%	9.2%	15.6%	7.9%
LA 91	12.2%	9.8%	9.8%	9.6%	15.7%	8.4%
U.S.	15%	10.2%	11.4%	10.9%	19.4%	9.1%

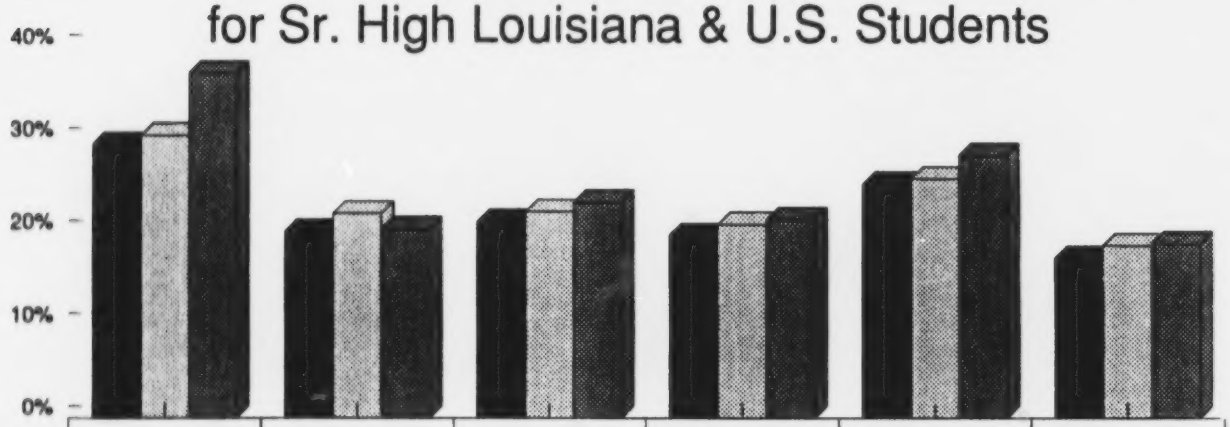
LA 90 LA 91 U.S.

Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

Figure IV.C.4.

Availability of Illicit Drugs

for Sr. High Louisiana & U.S. Students



	Marijuana	Cocaine	Uppers	Downers	Inhalants	Hallucinogens
LA 90	29.5%	20.1%	21.2%	19.7%	25.2%	17.2%
LA 91	30.5%	22.1%	22.3%	20.9%	25.8%	18.6%
U.S.	37.2%	20.4%	23.3%	21.4%	28.3%	18.8%

LA 90 LA 91 U.S.

Source: PRIDE Questionnaire
Total n > 240,000

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IV.A. Summary

In the fall of 1991, 246,258 Louisiana students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 were surveyed using the PRIDE Questionnaire for Grades 6-12, as compared to 241,858 in 1990. Data obtained from these individual school-based surveys provided information for a state-wide data base as well as information for individual school and parishes. The state-wide reports were comprised of data combining junior high school (grades 7 and 8) and senior high school (grades 9 through 12) samples. Analyses primarily consisted of percentage tables and graphs that contain survey findings. In addition, comparisons were made of the two years' statewide data, as well as, contrasts between state and national survey results. Prevalence of use, intoxicating effects of use, and availability of alcohol and other drugs were targeted for these state and national comparisons.

Student responses for 1991 indicated that over one-fourth of the junior high and over one-third of the senior high students reported smoking cigarettes within the past year. Eighteen percent of the junior high students reported first smoking cigarettes under the age of 12 years.

Annual beer and wine cooler use was reported by more than one-third of the junior high students and three-fifths of the senior high students. Almost one-fourth of the junior high students and

half of the senior high students reported using liquor. Although wine coolers are relatively new to the alcoholic beverage market, they received the highest reported use by both grade groups. Even though slightly fewer students indicated they drank liquor, a higher percentage reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they did drink. Over 43 percent of the senior high students reported getting intoxicated when drinking liquor as compared to 18 percent for beer and only 6 percent for wine coolers. The comparison data from 1990 to 1991 for Louisiana indicated a slight increase in usage rates of cigarettes and alcohol with a corresponding increase in the level of intoxication for both junior and senior high school students. The percentage of Louisiana students reporting cigarette and alcohol use was somewhat higher than PRIDE national estimates. However the national data indicated a higher level of intoxication by those using alcohol as compared to Louisiana junior and senior high school students.

Approximately one in ten students in grades 9 through 12 admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. The percentage was lower for junior high students with less than one in twenty students reporting annual marijuana use. Almost two-thirds of the students who indicated that they smoke marijuana get highly intoxicated when they do use. It can be deducted from these data that marijuana use by these young students is not "casual" use, and students apparently smoke to get "high." No increase in marijuana use was reported in 1991 when compared with the 1990 state-wide survey results. Marijuana use by Louisiana students was

considerably less than national survey results.

Other illicit drug use by junior and senior high students was low in comparison to cigarette, alcohol and marijuana use, and illicit drug use by junior high students was relatively low in comparison to senior high students. For senior high students, less than 5 percent reported use of cocaine, depressants, inhalants or hallucinogens. Seven percent of the students reported using stimulants. A relatively small increase occurred in the percentage of Louisiana students who reported illicit drug use from 1990 to 1991. Usage rates were similar when comparing the Louisiana survey results with the national data.

For those students who reported using cocaine and hallucinogens, a high percentage reported getting highly intoxicated. For example, of the senior high students reporting cocaine use, nearly three-fourths reported getting highly intoxicated when they use. For hallucinogen users, nearly 80 percent reported getting highly intoxicated. These data strongly suggest that if a student is found using these illicit drugs, professional help should be obtained immediately. The level of intoxication reached by those using illicit drugs showed a slight increase from 1990 to 1991 for Louisiana students, with the exception of hallucinogens. A slightly higher percentage of Louisiana students reported reaching high levels of intoxication as compared with the PRIDE national estimates.

Location and time of drug and alcohol use was relatively consistent. Students reported school as the place of least use of

drugs and alcohol in Louisiana. The most popular places selected for the use of drugs and alcohol were at a "Friend's Home" and in "Other" places in the community where youth congregate. "At Home" was also a preferred place for student drug and alcohol use. For the older students, "In a Car" was also a popular place to drink and smoke marijuana. Weekends were by far the most common time of drug and alcohol use.

It appears that adolescents use drugs and alcohol at times and places when there are social activities with no adult supervision. This pattern of drug use further suggests that drug prevention is a community-wide problem that must be addressed by parents, law enforcement, business and community leaders, churches and others in the community as well as by schools.

Slightly over 55 percent of junior high students and well over 80 percent of the senior high students reported friends who use beer and/or wine coolers. At the junior high level, about 11 percent reported having at least a few marijuana smoking friends. One-third of the senior high students reported friends who smoke marijuana. These data suggest that many students at the junior and senior high level are exposed to drug use through peer association and must make the decision to use or not to use on a regular basis.

The older senior high students tended to report wine cooler use as less harmful and illicit drug use as more harmful than the younger junior high students. Although these differences were small, they have implications for targeting drug prevention and education programs in grades 7 through 12 in Louisiana.

More than 39 percent of the junior high students and over 70 percent of the senior high students reported that beer and wine coolers were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. Twelve percent of the junior high and 30 percent of the senior high students reported that marijuana was readily accessible. A substantial percentage of junior and senior high students reported illicit drugs as easily obtained. For example, one in ten junior and one in five senior high students reported cocaine as "Fairly" to "Very" easy to get. Comparisons of the 1990 and 1991 Louisiana surveys indicated a slight increase in the percent of students who reported alcohol as readily available. The state-wide percentages closely approximate the PRIDE national percentages.

The availability of stimulants was similar to that reported for cocaine, about 10 percent of the junior high and 22 percent of the senior high students reported easy access to these drugs. Hallucinogens were less available to students than cocaine with 8 percent of the junior high and 18 percent of the senior high reporting access to this dangerous type of drug. There was a slight increase in the availability of illicit drugs reported by Louisiana students. Louisiana students had less accessibility to illicit drugs than students in the PRIDE national sample with the exception of cocaine.

IV.B. Recommendations

It can been seen from the results of this study that parents, teachers, and community members across Louisiana have a stake in preventing their youth from becoming involved with drugs. The acceptance of adolescent drug use in society can be reduced by supporting schools and community efforts in drug abuse prevention. Finally, there is a need to continue to monitor the success of existing programs, to study the patterns and prevalence of drug use, to examine factors that escalate drug use, and to develop effective programs to prevent future drug involvement of the youth.